

Site Number

Site Name Loch Of Hundland

Type of Site Mound (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 13

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329200

Northing 1027300

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1766

HY22NE 13 292 273.

(Area: HY 292 273) There is a mound of burnt stones at the north end of the Loch of Hundland,

about a quarter-mile ENE of Hundland School (HY 2900 2720).

RCAHMS 1946. No trace.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

A low circular mound located - but NOT 'burnt'.
P Ashmore (Inspec Anc Mon) visited 28 October 1976.

Site Number 2

Site Name Quoyhorrie

Type of Site Mound(S) (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 17

Status Non-designated heritage asset

**Easting** 328670 **Northing** 1026650

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1770

HY22NE 17 2867 2665. (HY 2867 2665) Tumuli (NR) O.S.6"map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

These two mounds are of comparatively recent origin.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

The mounds have been completely destroyed.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

Orkney Smr Note

Two small green mounds said to be ancient burying mounds, nearly half a mile NE of Kirbuster



Hill and an eighth of a mile SE of Quoyhorrie. [R1]

The two tumuli are marked on the OS map close to the road, fully a quarter of a mile SSE of Quoyhorrie are of comparatively recent origin. Mounds SSE of Quoyhorrie. [R2] Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

#### References

Ordnance Survey (Name Book. (1848-1878) Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale). RCAHMS Shelf Number: Ref

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 25, No.52 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 3

Site Name Hundland

Type of Site Barrow(S) (Prehistoric), Cist (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 18

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329940

Northing 1026750

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1771

HY22NE 18 2994 2675 and 2987 2674. (HY 2993 2673) Tumulus (NR) Stone Cist (NR)

O.S.6"map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

A large heather-covered earthen mound which was excavated from the top by Farrer a short time before 1880, who exposed a cist, containing bones, ashes etc.

Name Book 1880.

The mound measures 42 ft in diameter and is nearly 6 ft high. The cist was still visible in 1880 but not, apparently, when visited by the Commission in 1929.

The doubtful site of another mound, which may have measured some 25 ft in diameter, lies about 50 yds to the WNW.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

A turf-covered barrow on a false crest, as described by the Commission. No cist is visible. The mound '50 yds to the WNW' is very ploughed-down and impossible to classify. It is located at HY 2987 2674.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

'Barely discernible'. OS Revision October 1985.

Site Number 4

Site Name Hundland



Type of Site Barrow(S) (Prehistoric), Cist (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 18

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329940

Northing 1026750

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1771

HY22NE 18 2994 2675 and 2987 2674. (HY 2993 2673) Tumulus (NR) Stone Cist (NR)

O.S.6"map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

A large heather-covered earthen mound which was excavated from the top by Farrer a short

time before 1880, who exposed a cist, containing bones, ashes etc.

Name Book 1880.

The mound measures 42 ft in diameter and is nearly 6 ft high. The cist was still visible in 1880

but not, apparently, when visited by the Commission in 1929.

The doubtful site of another mound, which may have measured some 25 ft in diameter, lies

about 50 yds to the WNW.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

A turf-covered barrow on a false crest, as described by the Commission. No cist is visible. The mound '50 yds to the WNW' is very ploughed-down and impossible to classify. It is located at

HY 2987 2674. Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

'Barely discernible'.

OS Revision October 1985.

Site Number 5

Site Name Quoyhorrie

Type of Site Mound (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 20

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329700

Northing 1026900

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1774

HY22NE 20 297 269.

(Area : HY 297 269) The somewhat indefinite remains of a fairly large mound, about 40 ft in diameter, lie a little higher than the other mound (HY22NE 19), about 100 yds west of the

public road and close to a hill-side quarry (? HY 2972 2690).

The remains do not rise to any noticeable height above the surrounding ground and they are

much broken up.



**RCAHMS 1946.** 

No trace of this mound.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 25, No.50 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 6

Site Name Hundland, 'kirk Of Etheriegeo'

Type of Site Chapel (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY32NW 1

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 330130

Northing 1026430

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2207

HY32NW 1 3013 2643 See also HY32NW 2.

(HY 3013 2643) Chapel (NR) (Site of) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

The remains of this chapel are said to have stood to a height of 6 ft some years before 1880, by which year it had been removed and the material used to build part of Hundland farmhouse (HY 300 265).

The site is now marked by a rough stony mound.

Name Book 1880; RCAHMS 1946.

No trace and no further information. Visited by OS (NKB) 3 June 1967.

Orkney Smr Note (February 1983)

A few stones and mounds on the W side of the Burn of Etheriegeo, and supposed by the inhabitants of this district to be the site of an ancient church. [R1] Site indicated only by a few stones, it is impossible to trace even the outline of the foundation. [R2] As described RC. OS visit Jun 67.

The site is a triangular level-topped bluff bordered by the stream on its SE and NE sides. The bluff stands about 1.5m above the bottom of the gorge, about 5m deep, occupying an incised meander. The bluff is flat-surfaced and measures about 8m (SE side of triangle) by 7m (NE side) by 11m (along back of platform); it is turf-covered while all around is rank heather. Many earthfast erect slabs project on the surface and upper part of the slope of the bluff but form no pattern; the site undoubtedly however has been occupied. there is no other trace of settlement for a very long way around.

Information from Orkney SMR (RGL) Feb 83

### References

Ordnance Survey (Name Book. (1848-1878) Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale). Page(s): Book No.1, 118 RCAHMS Shelf Number: Ref



RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 37, No.128 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 7

Site Name Park Holm, Loch Of Swannay

Type of Site Causeway (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY32NW 5

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 331270

Northing 1029650

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2223

HY32NW 5 3127 2695

(HY 3127 2695) Park Holm (NAT) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

A small, possibly artificial, island measuring 38 ft NE-SW and about 29 ft transversely, which has obviously been the site of an early structure now so dilapidated that its character cannot be identified. The debris, overgrown with nettles and coarse vegetation, consists mainly of large stones, and forms a mound some 5 ft high. No definite structural features are visible, despite apparent attempts at excavation. The area of the island seems to be too small for the site of a broch.

A causeway, 50 yds long and varying in width from 6 to 12 ft, connects the island with the west shore of the loch.

RCAHMS 1946.

As described by the Commission. Visited by OS (NKB) 3 June 1967.

Scheduled as 'Park Holm, artificial island and causeway, Loch of Swannay'. Information from Historic Scotland, scheduling document dated 5 March 1993.

### Orkney Smr Note (August 1984)

The NE-SW quadrant at the edge of the islet, which is clearly artificial, is defined by a double row of face to face laid edge stones. On the NE it is probable that a set of large heavy flat topped stones, average thickness 0.25, have been deliberately laid as a paving, perhaps to a sort of apron around the central knoll, though this may be an effect. The heap is very steep with many very high slabs. The top is hollowed, covered with nettles, height above apron level is 1.7m. Causeway is made of flat boulders carefully laid, original width probably less than 1m, but now much broken and spread.

Information from Orkney SMR (RGL) July 1984.

#### References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 20, No.28 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12



Site Number 8

Site Name Rantan

Type of Site Structure(S) (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 61

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329900

Northing 1028500

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 182319

HY22NE 61 299 285

Three unroofed structures are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxix), but they are not shown on the current edition of the OS

1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 19 December 2000

Site Number

Site Name Rantan

Type of Site Structure (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 62

Status Non-designated heritage asset

**Easting** 329650 **Northing** 1028450

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 182321

HY22NE 62 2965 2845

One unroofed structure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxix), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS

1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 19 December 2000

Site Number 10

Site Name Rantan

Type of Site Structure (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 63

Status Non-designated heritage asset

**Easting** 329710



Northing 1028290

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 182322

HY22NE 63 2971 2829

One unroofed structure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxix), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS

1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 19 December 2000

Site Number 11

Site Name Skesquoy

Type of Site Township (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY32NW 25

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 330350

Northing 1025900

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 182359

HY32NW 25 centred on 3035 2590

A township comprising four farmsteads is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxix). Three of the farmsteads comprise two roofed buildings and one or two enclosures, and the fourth farmstead comprises one unroofed

long building of four compartments and one enclosure.

One roofed building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 19 December 2000

Site Number 12

Site Name Loch Of Hundland

Type of Site Farmstead (Period Unassigned)(Possible)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY32NW 26

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 330010

Northing 1025780

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 182361



HY32NW 26 3001 2578

What may be a farmstead comprising one unroofed building and two enclosures is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxix). One unroofed building and the fragmentary remains of one enclosure are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 19 December 2000

Site Number 13

Site Name Setter

Type of Site Farmstead (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number HY22NE 50

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 329370

Northing 1027580

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 182368

HY22NE 50 2937 2758

A farmstead comprising one unroofed L-shaped building, one partially roofed building, three roofed buildings and two enclosures, one of which is incomplete, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Orkney and Shetland (Orkney) 1882, sheet lxxxviii). A subdivided

enclosure is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1977).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 14 December 2000

Site Number 14

Site Name Hundland

Type of Site House (Post Medieval)

Listing No./NRHE Number Mucklehouse

Status Non-designated heritage asset

Easting 330070

Northing 1026555

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 306458

Orkney Smr Note

Hundland was part of the Bishopric Estate 1564 but before that there no Birsay records. House is still inhabited and has been extensively altered in places. Rebuilt, but old design can still be traced and shows them to have been of the same long sellar type, with ale-hurry's built out. The side walls and gables in all these types of houses run from 2.5ft - 2ft 8in thick. This is a further difference between them and the ordinary run of old one storey houses, whose walls are uniformly 2ft thick. With regards to the original use of the rooms in this type of house,



recesses in the firehouse show it was built as a kitchen and living room which it has been ever since. The cellar is divided into two, occasionally three, rooms one being a parlour as well. Original plan similar in design to Winksetter (1655) plan as shown in reference. [R1] HUNDLAND: now the most Easterly of the three farms in the tunship. A little distance to the SE is the site of an old chapel. [R2] Information from Orkney SMR

#### References

Clouston, J S. (1923b) 'Old Orkney Houses, I', Proc Orkney Antiq Soc, vol. 1, 1922-3. Kirkwall. Marwick, H. (1970) The place-names of Birsay. Aberdeen. RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.9.3.BIR

Site Number 15

Site Name

Knowe of Hamar, burnt mound, 300 m ESE of Innister

Type of Site

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM10104

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 338946

Northing 1033512

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a crescent-shaped mound, formed mainly of fire-shattered stones and other burnt debris, lying adjacent to a stream. This type of monument is known as a burnt mound and is likely to date from the Bronze Age, around 1500 BC. Burnt mounds represent the debris from heating water, which was done by heating up stones in a fire and then placing them in a stone tank full of water.

The mound is an irregular crescent shape. It has maximum dimensions of 20m NE to SW by 15m transversely and it stands up to 1.5m high. Its SW arm appears to have been truncated, perhaps relatively recently. At several places across the mound, there are exposures of very dark soil with sooty flecks and burnt, fire-shattered and weathered stones.

The tops of several upright slabs are just visible protruding from the surface. These define a rectangular hollow aligned NW to SE and may represent the location of a stone tank. There are indications of other structural remains occurring within the mound, with fragmentary drystone coursed masonry visible in places in the NW face.

The stream flowing immediately NW of the mound, which would have been the water source for activities leading to the creation of the mound, has been artificially straightened. At two places in the stream-cut profile of the NW bank, stone slabs and dark soil are exposed. The area to be scheduled is a circle 40m in diameter, centred on the mound, to include the burnt mound and an area around it in which related remains may be expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map extract. The river channel and stream banks are excluded, to allow for maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the remains of a substantial burnt mound in good condition. Although partly eroded by the stream, it retains considerable potential to provide important information about the function, date and duration of use of burnt mounds, and about their place in contemporary society and economy.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 33 SE 9.

References:



Lamb, R. G. (1982) 'The archaeological monuments of Scotland, 16, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre', RCAHMS. 21.

RCAHMS (1946) Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Inventory of the Monument of Orkney, 226.

Site Number 16

Site Name Black Knowe, burial mound, 245m NNW of Westside

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1244

Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 328647 **Northing** 1024551

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a burial mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It is visible as a substantial, upstanding, circular grass-covered earthen mound. It survives to a height of approximately 1.2m and measures approximately 16m in diameter. It occupies low-lying improved and rough grassland at around 40m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan and measures 30m in diameter. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. Specifically excluded from the scheduled area are the above-ground remains of a post-and-wire fence to allow for its maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary and burial practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. Black Knowe retains its field characteristics to a marked degree and is a significant example of its type. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney has demonstrated that this monument has high potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, such as the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. Its significance is enhanced by its association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located on marginal land over the N half of Orkney Mainland. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SE 38.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 26, no. 54.



Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013

Site Number 17

Site Name Black Knowe, mound 470m N of Lower Cottascarth

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1245

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 336955

Northing 1019879

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of a barrow dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrow is visible as an upstanding, circular turf-covered earthen mound, measuring 16m in diameter and surviving to a height of 2m. The top of the mound has been disturbed in antiquity and a stone cist was found here in 1849. A number of stone slabs are visible near the central hollow of the mound, but it is uncertain if these are in their original context. The monument is located on low-lying land at the edge of farmland and moorland at around 50m above OD. There are hills behind it to the W and NW, but it has open views to the E towards the Bay of Isbister and Wide Firth. The monument was first scheduled in 1949, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan and measures 36m in diameter. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of funerary and burial practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Black Knowe is a barrow of larger than average size. Although disturbed in antiquity, the barrow mound retains its field characteristics to a marked degree and is a significant example of its type. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney demonstrates that Black Knowe has the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, such as the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The significance of Black Knowe is enhanced by its association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located on marginal land N of the coast at Bay of Isbister in Orkney Mainland. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument were to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY31NE 5.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy. Unpublished report to Historic Scotland. ARCUS, University of Sheffield.



Moore, H and Wilson, G 1995, 'Two Orcadian cist burials: excavations at Midskaill, Egilsay and Linga Fiold, Sandwick', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 125, 237-51.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 84, no 287.

Towrie, S 2013, 'The Knowes o' Trotty', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/> [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 18

Site Name Burgar, chambered cairn NNW of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1247/HY32NW 15
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 334823 Northing 1027818

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2213
From Canmore record:

HY32NW 15 3482 2782. (HY 3480 2782) Brough (NR) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

An Orkney-Cromarty type round chambered cairn, with a diameter of 54ft, composed of small slabs laid horizontally.

The centre has been greatly robbed but five upright slabs, the remains of the chamber, can still

Two large slabs lying to the SE side do not appear to be in situ.

A S Henshall 1963.

A chambered cairn as described by Henshall.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (NKB) 4 June 1967.

Aerial Photography (1971)

Oblique aerial photographs of Burgar chambered cairn, Orkney Islands, taken by Mr John Dewar in 1971.

### Orkney Smr Note

\* The ruined cairn stands on the lower edge of the meadow almost immediately above the shore. It is circular with a diameter of 54ft and is made up of small slabs laid horizontally. The centre has been greatly robbed and five upright slabs are visible, their arrangement indicating a small chamber with its main axis NE-SW. The stones form two pairs, the inner pair being considerably taller, and the fifth stone has the appearance of a back slab. The entrance was probably from the NE. Two large slabs lying to the SE side do not appear in situ.

\* Burgar (O-C round).

Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

#### References

Davidson and Henshall, J L and A S. (1989) The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents. Edinburgh. Page(s): 105-6, no. 6 plan RCAHMS Shelf Number: F 7 11 HFN



Henshall, A S. (1963a) The chambered tombs of Scotland, vol. 1. Edinburgh. Page(s): 187, ORK.6 Fig.15 RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.7.1.HEN

Site Number 19

Site Name Ivybank, mound 215m SSW of, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; cairn (type uncertain)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1255

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339433 Northing 1032723

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of a burial mound dating probably from the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The monument is visible as a circular mound of earth and stones, measuring 8.5m in diameter and standing to a height of 0.7m. There is evidence of some earlier intrusion into the mound in the form of two depressions in its surface, but overall it appears to be relatively intact and in reasonable condition. The mound is located around 1km from the NE coast of Rousay, on low-lying land 20m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Wasbister and Saviskaill Bay to the NE. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan and measures 20m in diameter. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to contribute to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. This mound retains most of its original form and excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney has demonstrated that mounds such as this have the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features. The Ivybank burial mound is also significant as a component of a wider relict landscape in Rousay, reflecting the various ways in which prehistoric communities used the landscape for burial and commemoration. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age burial monuments would be diminished if this mound was to be lost or damaged.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 4.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 226, no 590.

RCAHMS 1982, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 16, Edinburgh, 19, no 44.



Towrie, S 2013, 'The Knowes o' Trotty', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 20

Site Name Durka Dale, burnt mound 230m NNW of S of Loch Hundland

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1259/HY22NE 25
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329910

Northing 1025075

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1779

From Canmore record:

HY22NE 25 2990 2507. (HY 2988 2507) Tumulus (NR) O.S.6"map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

A mound of burnt stones.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

A horse-shoe mound of burnt stones and black earth, 10.0 m. across and 1.0 m. high, situated

in marshy ground close by a burn.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

'No visible evidence' OS Revision October 1985.

Orkney Smr Note

Listed under Mounds of Burnt Stones, sometimes with associated structure. Tumulus, barely a

quarter of a mile N of crofters house [R1] Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 35, No.104 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 21

Site Name Esgar, two burnt mounds WSW of, Dounby

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1262

Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 329591



Northing 1021068

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises two oval burnt mounds, in close proximity, within poorly drained land. The monument was scheduled in 1937 but was incorrectly located and an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: this present re-scheduling rectifies this.

The two burnt mounds are both oval in shape with the long axis in each case aligned NE-SW. Their maximum length together is approximately 21m NE-SW and their combined width is approximately 18m NW-SE. The more southerly mound stands to approximately 1.25m high, its northern neighbour stands to about 1m high and is a less prominent feature in the landscape. There is a central hollow in the N mound, possibly the result of an unrecorded investigation. The mounds are separated by a steep-sided gully measuring approximately 0.5 m wide. The mounds are situated on a S trending gentle slope and are almost on the north-eastern shoreline of a now infilled, but still waterlogged, old loch basin. Both mounds have broad shallow clefts in their S sides, which may represent, in each case, the site of the trough. Burnt stone and charcoal is visible is small areas of disturbance on both mounds.

The area to be scheduled is four-sided, measuring about 30m on all sides and aligned NE-SW, to include both mounds and an area of ground extending 5m out from the outer edge of each mound on all sides, and includes the probable ancient shore-line of the loch as marked in red on the accompanying map extract. The scheduling specifically excludes the modern post and wire fence that crosses the SE part of the scheduled area.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as two well'preserved examples of burnt mounds located in a setting that probably has not been significantly altered since their abandonment. As such the site retains a considerable potential to provide important information on their function and history of use.

References Bibliography

The monument is recorded by RCAHMS as HY 22 SE 11.

Site Number 22

Site Name Eynhallow, standing stone & mound

Type of Site Building (Period Unassigned), Cairn (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1263/HY32NE 14
Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 335900 **Northing** 1028740

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2164
From Canmore record:

Field Visit (27 July 1929) No. 615. Cairn, The Graad.

Between the stone (No. 616) and the chapel (No. 613), but a little to the E, is an oval cairn, the major axis of which lies roughly E and W. It is 21ft long by 15ft 9in broad, but has lost much of



its original height. On its N side is a slab, 3ft 7in long and 1ft 10in high, which is packed on the outside with stones and probably forms part of a cist.

Visited by RCAHMS 27 July 1929.

Notebook MS 36/106, 55-6

#### Field Visit (11 June 1967)

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme

At HY 3590 2874, on a gentle slope, are the turf-covered remains of an oval mound of heavy stones, as described by the RCAHMS. This could be a cairn or stone clearance. If the upright slab on the N side, described above, is a cist slab, the covering cairn must have had a diameter of about 7.0 m, and has been destroyed on the N side.

Surveyed at 1:2500.

Visited by OS (NKB) 11 June 1967.

Desk Based Assessment (24 May 1967)

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme

HY32NE 14 3590 2874.

(HY 359 287) An oval cairn lies between Eynhallow Monastery (HY32NE 2) and standing stone (HY32NE 13) but a little to the E.

It lies roughly E-W and measures 21 ft by 15 ft 9 ins, but has lost much of its original height. On its N side there is a slab, 3 ft 7 ins long and 1 ft 10 ins high, which is packed on the outside with stones and probably forms part of a cist.

Information from OS (ES) 24 May 1967

Source: RCAHMS 1946.

#### Reference (18 January 1983)

Crowning a rock outcrop on the slope below the monastery is a roughly oval heap of big stones confusedly tumbled together against a massive upright slab on its N side, the heap now measuring about 7.5 by 5m. Its lack of coherent structure strongly suggests a clearance heap, the planting of an upright flagstone to form the core of such a heap being a practice still occasionally current.

Information from OS (IF) 18 January 1983

Source: RCAHMS 1982 (Visited by R G Lamb, 1982)

### Ground Survey (25 April 2007 - 29 April 2007)

HY 36041 29076 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the island of Eynhallow was undertaken in April 2007. A total of 65 sites were recorded, ranging from post-medieval buildings to prehistoric structures. Of particular interest was the identification of a previously unrecorded burnt mound in the N of the island, several possible prehistoric burial mounds and a well preserved sequence of field dykes. Although further work is required to understand these boundaries, initial assessment suggests there is clear phasing and chronological depth to these features which may include potential prehistoric land divisions.

Report to be deposited with the Orkney SMR and RCAHMS.

Funder: Hunter Archaeological Trust, Viking Society for Northern Research, Orkney Archaeological Trust, Orkney College Geophysics Unit.

### Field Visit (12 August 2015)

RCAHMS Special Survey, Eynhallow

Although these remains have been previously recorded as those of a possible burial cairn (RCAHMS 1946; OS 1967) or of a clearance cairn (Lamb in RCAHMS 1982; Moore and Thomas 2008), they may be those of a ruined farmstead. A small square unroofed building is shown here on the 1st edition of the OS 25 inch map (Orkney Sheet LXXIX.7, 1882), while a farmstead known as 'South House' is depicted in approximately this location upon a sketch plan of 1827 (Orkney Archives Ref. D1/440/1).

Visited by RCAHMS (GFG) 12 August 2015

Moore and Thomas 2008, Site 34

#### References

Mooney, J. (1923) Eynhallow: the holy island of the Orkneys. 1st. Kirkwall. Page(s): 33 RCAHMS

Shelf Number: D.9.3.EYN

Moore and Thomas, J and A. (2008a) 'Eynhallow, Orkney (Rousay and Egilsay parish), desk-



based assessment, walkover survey and geophysical survey', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 9, 2008. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 234, No.615 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

RCAHMS. (1982d) The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 16.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 30, No.144 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.2.ARC/16

Site Number 23

Site Name Eynhallow, standing stone & mound

Type of Site Standing Stone (Prehistoric)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1263/Standing Stone (Prehistoric)

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 335892 Northing 1028678

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2163

From Canmore record:

Field Visit (9 June 1967)

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme

A standing stone, as described by the RCAHMS; it is possibly of no great age. Photo on 495 card.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (NKB) 9 June 1967.

Desk Based Assessment (18 January 1982)

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme

HY32NE 13 3589 2866. (HY 3589 2866) Stone (NAT) OS 1:10,000 map, 1977.

An upright slab set in a packing of smaller stones. It measures 5 ft 5 ins high by 2 ft 1 in by 1 ft 2

ins; the top is angled along the natural line of cleavage.

RCAHMS 1946, visited 1929.

A standing stone, as described by the RCAHMS; it is possibly of no great age.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (NKB) 9 June 1967.

This upright slab, 1.65 m high, is situated immediately above the shoreline on a low crest consisting of shelving rocks. It was probably used in connection with hauling up boats and is of no great age.

**RCAHMS 1982.** 

Information from OS (IF) 18 January 1982

Ground Survey (25 April 2007 - 29 April 2007)

HY 36041 29076 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the island of Eynhallow was undertaken in April 2007. A total of 65 sites were recorded, ranging from post-medieval buildings to prehistoric structures. Of particular interest was the identification of a previously unrecorded burnt mound in the N of the island, several possible prehistoric burial mounds and a well preserved sequence of field dykes. Although further work is required to understand



these boundaries, initial assessment suggests there is clear phasing and chronological depth to these features which may include potential prehistoric land divisions.

Report to be deposited with the Orkney SMR and RCAHMS.

Funder: Hunter Archaeological Trust, Viking Society for Northern Research, Orkney Archaeological Trust, Orkney College Geophysics Unit.

Field Visit (12 August 2015) RCAHMS Special Survey, Eynhallow As described. Visited by RCAHMS (GFG) 12 August 2015 Moore and Thomas 2008, Site 33

References

 $\label{lem:macKie} \textit{MacKie, E W. (1975a) Scotland: an archaeological guide: from the earliest times to the twelfth}$ 

century. London. Page(s): 258 RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.2.MAC

Mooney, J. (1923) Eynhallow: the holy island of the Orkneys. 1st. Kirkwall. Page(s): 32-3

RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.9.3.EYN

Moore and Thomas, J and A. (2008a) 'Eynhallow, Orkney (Rousay and Egilsay parish), desk-based assessment, walkover survey and geophysical survey', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 9, 2008. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 234, No.616 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

RCAHMS. (1982d) The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 16.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 29, No.140 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.2.ARC/16

Site Number 24

Site Name Fan Knowe, burnt mound 210m W of Hyval Cottage

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1264

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329986

Northing 1019759

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument comprises the well-preserved remains of a burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (second millennium BC). It is visible as a roughly crescent-shaped turf-covered mound, which measures approximately 26m N-S by 20m E-W and stands around 1.5m high. A hollow in its W side is waterlogged, suggesting the presence of a water source. The mound is situated in a low-lying boggy field, at around 10m above sea level, with views across the Loch of Harray. The monument was originally scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 36m in diameter, centred on the centre of the burnt mound, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use

and abandonment is expected to survive.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds



and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type and its close proximity to several Bronze Age burial monuments, particularly a barrow less than 50m to the NE, gives it added potential to enhance our knowledge of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY21NE 31

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence dating of Scottish burnt mounds: new investigations in Orkney and Shetland (unpubl PhD thesis, University of Glasgow).

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 106, 39-98.

ScarF 2013, Burnt Mounds, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework, .

Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scott Archaeol J 29, 31-49

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to heritage assets: burnt mounds, English Heritage.

Towrie, S 2013, A brief history of Orkney 'the Bronze Age, .

Site Number 25

Site Name Vetquoy, mounds N of Lochside

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1266

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326834

Northing 1018647

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument is the remains of six barrows forming a barrow cemetery dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as low, roughly circular, turf-covered earthen mounds situated in two fields separated by a modern road (four lie W of the road and two E of the road). The largest lies at the SW edge of the group: this measures 22.6m in diameter and stands about 0.5m high. Another mound lies immediately to the NNE, about 5m away, measuring around 8m in diameter. A third mound stands about 5.5m to the NNE and is 10m in diameter. About 6m further to the NNW is a fourth barrow, measuring 11.5m in diameter. On the other side of the road, and about 65m NE of the largest mound in the group, there are two further mounds, the largest of which measures 16m in diameter. The other mound lies some 16m to the ENE and is 9m in diameter. This barrow cemetery occupies a broad, low ridge running W-E, situated at around 14m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Harray. The monument was first scheduled in 1939, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the road and 2m on either side of it to allow for its maintenance.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition



to understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape and are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. They provide evidence for significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The significance of the Vetquoy barrows is enhanced by their association with other barrows nearby and their place in the wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located around the Loch of Harray and N of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the site as HY21NE 41.

References

Downes, J 1994, 'Excavation of a Bronze Age burial at Mousland, Stromness, Orkney', Proc Soc Antig Scot 124, 151.

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

Hedges, M E 1979, 'The excavation of the Knowes of Quoyscottie, Orkney: a cemetery of the early first millenium BC', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 130-55.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 261-2, no 701.

Towrie, S 2013, 'The Knowes o' Trotty', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 26

Site Name

Long Stone, standing stone, Frotoft, Rousay

Type of Site

Prehistoric ritual and funerary: standing stone

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1267

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 340406 Northing 1027495

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a standing stone, a ritual or ceremonial monument dating probably to the late Neolithic or Bronze Age (late third or second millennium BC). The stone is earth-fast and in its original location. It stands approximately 2m high and is 0.8m wide by 0.3m thick at the base, tapering to 0.6m wide and 0.18m thick at the top. The stone is situated on a grassy verge directly N of the road above a gentle slope down to the sea. It stands about 20m above sea level and has wide views across Eynhallow Sound to the S. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 2m in diameter, centred on the stone. The scheduling includes the stone described above and an area around it within which evidence relating to the monument's erection and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling excludes the top 50cm of the road surface and make-up to allow for its maintenance.



#### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance as a well-preserved and impressive example of an individual, prehistoric standing stone. It is a large example, but is otherwise typical of its class in Orkney. Although broken and repaired in the past, the stone still stands in its original location and there is high potential for the presence of buried archaeological deposits and features in the socket and around the base of the stone, including possibly burials. This monument has the potential to enhance our understanding of ritual and ceremonial activities in the prehistoric period, and specifically, the beliefs of the people who erected standing stones, the activities carried out around standing stones, and the relationship between standing stones in an area. This standing stone also has the potential to inform us about the value attributed to such monuments in later times, for example, in marking a routeway or territory. The stone forms part of the wider archaeological landscape in Rousay which is particularly rich in prehistoric monuments, many of them funerary or ceremonial in function. The loss of this monument would diminish our ability to understand the nature of prehistoric belief and ritual in Orkney and the placing and function of standing stones within the landscape.

References

**Bibliography** 

RCAHMS records the monument as HY42NW 7.

References

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 202, no 559.

RCAHMS 1982, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 16, Edinburgh, 20, no 50. Ritchie, A 1996, Orkney and Shetland, in Ritchie, A (ed) Exploring Scotland's Heritage series, Edinburgh.

Site Number 27

Site Name Knowe of Gairsty, barrows, Vestra Fiold

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1268

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323473

Northing 1022709

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of two burial mounds dating probably to the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). The monument is visible as two adjacent, circular, turf-covered earthen mounds of different sizes. The northernmost is approximately 15m in diameter and stands up to 0.7m high; part of a cist is visible in the SE side. The smaller mound lies approximately 16m to the SSE and is around 12m in diameter and stands 0.3m high. The monument occupies a conspicuous location on a low-lying ridge at 80m above OD, with seaward views to the W and NW over the bay of Mar Wick. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area consists of two conjoined circles on plan. The larger circle is centred on the northernmost barrow and measures 40m in diameter, while the smaller measures 30m in diameter. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to



survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence that crosses the monument.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The mounds at Knowe of Gairsty retain their field characteristics to a marked degree and are good examples of their type. The northernmost mound is larger than average and survives relatively intact; at least one cist has been recorded within this mound. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney has demonstrated that these mounds have the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, such as the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. The significance of the Knowe of Gairsty mounds is enhanced by their association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age monuments located around Vestra Fiold and the west coast of Orkney Mainland, which has one of the most important concentrations of such monuments in Orkney. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 2.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

Hedges, M E 1979, 'The excavation of the Knowes of Quoyscottie, Orkney: a cemetery of the early first millenium BC', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 130-55.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh. 32. no 84.

Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].

Site Number 28

Site Name Greene Knowe, burnt mound, 230m SW of Braeside

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1270

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328561

Northing 1024718

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved and substantial burnt mound, dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as an elongated grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 25m N-S by 30m transversely and standing approximately 1.5m high. Burnt stone has been recorded previously in exposed sections of the mound. The mound is situated on low-lying rough pasture land S of the isthmus between the Lochs of Boardhouse and Hundland. It sits on a NW-facing slope at 35m above sea



level and is adjacent to a now culverted watercourse. The monument was originally scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 40m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its kind, located in area rich in Bronze Age remains. By analogy with excavated burnt mounds elsewhere in Orkney, it can be expected to contain structures such as a hearth and water trough, and other important archaeological evidence. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

#### References

**Bibliography** 

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence Dating of Scottish Burnt Mounds: New Investigations in Orkney and Shetland, Unpublished PhD Thesis, University of Glasgow.

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antig Scot 106. 39-98.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 35, no 103.

ScARF, 2013, 3.3.1 'Burnt Mounds', The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website, http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/331-burnt-mounds.

Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scottish Archaeol J 29(1).

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK. Towrie, S 2013, 'A Brief History of Orkney - The Bronze Age', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm.

Site Number 29

Site Name Handest, settlement, Dounby

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1272

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330228

Northing 1020713

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric settlement, dating probably to the Iron Age (between about 800 BC and 500 AD). It is visible as a substantial turf-covered oval mound, measuring approximately 40m N-S by 35m transversely and standing up to 3m high. The mound is surmounted by a later farmstead called Handest, now uninhabited. In 1929, RCAHMS reported that substantial drystone structures were exposed during an excavation carried out by the then owner's son. The structures appeared to extend under the farmhouse and



comprised a series of circular or semi-circular drystone chambers. The masonry was encountered about 1.2m beneath the surface, with some wall-faces exposed to a height of over 1m. Finds included a large quantity of pottery and a range of other objects, including stone lamps and hammers. In 1993, the installation of a septic tank immediately S of the farmhouse cut through about 1.8m of occupation debris consisting mainly of rubble, rather than midden; and a later trench across the farmyard produced a quantity of spindle-whorls. The settlement is situated on a level area of ground on a gentle SW-facing slope with distant views over the Loch of Harray, at about 35m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 50m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the abandoned farmstead and all other modern buildings; and the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences and stone boundary walls. It also excludes the top 300mm of all paths, paved and gravelled areas, garden ground and other surfaces in use, to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly of settlement, society and economy in Iron Age Orkney. The records of previous investigations indicate that the monument survives in good condition below the surface and that there is a considerable depth of archaeological structures and deposits. There is very high potential for the survival of further structures, passageways, hearths, stone-built furniture and archaeological deposits. Such remains can greatly enhance our understanding of prehistoric settlement, architecture, daily life, land-use, agriculture, economy and ritual. There is no evidence to suggest that this is a broch mound, which adds to its interest: there is significant potential here to study the origins and development of a non-defensive Iron Age settlement, which are much less common than broch sites in Orkney. The settlement probably has a complex development sequence: it may have earlier origins than suggested by the tantalising glimpse of the structures seen so far, and is likely to have been adapted and re-used over time. Overall, the site may well represent more than a millennium of human occupation. The nearest known Iron Age settlement is the broch at North Bigging about 930m to the SSE, with which it may be compared. The site is located in an area rich in prehistoric burials and occupation remains of different periods, which adds to its potential to inform our understanding of the nature of settlement and prehistoric land-use patterns in this area. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to understand domestic architecture, settlement and society in prehistoric Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the site as HY32SW 6.

References

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 31, no 21-22.

Site Number 30

Site Name Howaback, mound, Hourston

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1279

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329345

Northing 1019553



Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument comprises the remains of a barrow dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrow is visible as an upstanding, sub-circular, turf-covered mound, measuring around 10m in diameter and surviving to a height of 1.25m. There is a 1929 record of a square cist having been found in the mound in antiquity, containing burnt or partially burnt bones. The monument occupies a conspicuous position in the landscape on an area of gently sloping land at about 7m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Harray. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 20m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary and burial practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Although this mound has seen some antiquarian investigation, it retains its field characteristics to a marked degree and is a good example of its type. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney has demonstrated that the Howaback mound has the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, including possibly the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The significance of the Howaback mound is enhanced by its association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments around or near to the Loch of Harray. All would have had spectacular views over the loch and would also have been inter-visible with each other, which was probably an important factor in their siting. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY21NE 32

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

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RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 261, no 696.

Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 31

Site Name Howana Gruna, cairn 270m SE of Whitehouse

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1280

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 333666



Northing 1026311

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a large, grass-covered mound located at a height of about 95m OD on the NW slope of Burgar Hill. The monument was first schediled in 1936, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains. The present proposal rectifies this.

This substantial mound stands approximately 3m high and measures about 18m in diamtere. In profile it is flat-topped with steeply sloping sides. Some large stones are exposed close to the summit of the mound, but the mound itself appears mostly to consist of small stones and earth. There is a slight depression in the summit. Monuments such as this normally date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age (third to second century millennium BC) and were usually associated with human burial.

The area to be scheduled is a circle measuring 40m in diameter, centred on the centre of the mound, to include the whole of the mound and an area around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use is likely to survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the remains of a substantial prehistoric mound. The mound is located in undisturbed land and thus has considerable potential to provide important information about prehistoric ritual and funerary architecture and practices.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY23NW 9.

References:

RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3V, Edinburgh, 81.

Site Number 32

Site Name Howen Brough, broch

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1282

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331808 Northing 1019143

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a broch dating probably from the Iron Age (between 600 BC and AD 400). The broch is visible as a substantial turf-covered mound, roughly oval in plan with a fairly flat summit, located on a larger platform. The central mound measures 25m N-S by 20m transversely and stands up to 1.75m high. There are traces of outworks in the form of a bank and possible ditch around part of the broch, especially to the NW. The mound is expected to contain the foundations of a broch tower similar to Burrian Broch some 600m to the NNE. The monument is located on a gentle SW-facing slope at about 20m above sea level, some 2km E of the Loch of Harray. It has good views, especially to the SW over the Loch of Harray. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.



The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence that runs N-S across the centre of the monument and the above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence that runs E-W along the S edge of the monument.

#### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. This is an impressive example of a broch mound in a rich archaeological landscape. By analogy with excavated brochs in Orkney, this monument is likely to retain its structural characteristics to a marked degree and may have a complex development sequence: as well as the broch and its outworks, there may be earlier remains and later settlement around the broch, as on comparable sites. The monument's importance is enhanced by its probable association with Burrian Broch, situated only 600m to the ENE, and several other brochs in the Loch Harray area. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and re-use of brochs and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Orkney and further afield.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS record the site as HY31NW 32.

References

Ballin Smith, B (ed) 1994, Howe, Four Millennia of Orkney Prehistory, Edinburgh, Soc Antiq Scot Monogr Ser 9.

Hedges, J 1987, Bu, Gurness and the Brochs of Orkney: Parts I, II and III, Brit Archaeol Rep Brit Ser 163-165

Mackie, E W 2002, The Roundhouses, Brochs and Wheelhouses of Atlantic Scotland c. 700 BC' AD 500: Architecture and Material Culture, Part 1: The Orkney and Shetland Isles, Brit Archaeol Rep Brit Ser 225.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 17, no 20.

Site Number 33

Site Name Hundland, settlement mound 270m SW of

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: mound (domestic or defensive, rather than ritual or funerar

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1284

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329789

Northing 1026362

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a steep-sided, stony, settlement mound, located on the eastern shore of the Loch of Hundland at approximately 25m OD. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present re-scheduling rectifies this.

The monument survives as a steep-sided oval mound measuring some 35m NW-SE by 30m NE-SW and standing up to 2m high. The upper surface is irregular. A number of earth-fast slabs are



exposed on the summit which, together with some ill-defined areas of probable masonry, suggest that the mound contains and conceals a series of contiguous stone-built structures or chambers. The mound is eroding on its western edge where it projects into the Loch of Hundland. Bone and pottery of probable Iron Age date have been recovered from the site. The mound appears to contain a multi-chambered stone-built structure, possibly a broch (a defensive stone-built tower), and was constructed and occupied probably in the Iron Age (some time between 500 BC and AD 500).

The area to be scheduled is irregular in plan with maximum dimensions of 81m NW-SE by 41m NE-SW, to include the settlement mound and an area around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use is likely to survive. The area is bounded on the NE and SW by post-and-wire fences, and on the SW, W and NW by the shore of the loch, as marked in red on the accompanying map. The post-and-wire fences are excluded from the scheduling to allow for their maintenance. Two small stone-built jetties to the SE of the mound are also excluded from the scheduling.

Site Number 34

Site Name Kirbuster Hill, barrow cemetery 410m ENE of Heatherlea

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1285

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328429

Northing 1026374

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of at least ten barrows, forming part of a barrow cemetery dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). All of the barrow mounds are roughly circular and they are aligned in a broadly N-S arrangement. They vary in diameter between 4m and 15m and are generally low, standing up to 0.5m maximum. The barrow cemetery is located on improved grassland on the SE shoulder of Kirbuster Hill at approximately 60m above sea level. The cemetery is sited midway between and overlooks Loch of Hundland to the E and Loch of Boardhouse to the W. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is an irregular polygon in shape, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a post-and-wire fence to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. They provide evidence of the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in Bronze Age Orkney. Although this site has suffered plough damage and erosion in the past, the surviving barrows retain their field characteristics to a reasonable degree and we know from excavation of similar sites that they are likely to contain important archaeological evidence. The buried remains are likely to include cists, skeletal material and ashes, as well as artefactual and environmental evidence for the design, construction and use of the barrows, and the nature of the contemporary local



environment. The significance of this site is enhanced by its proximity to other barrows and barrow cemeteries in this part of Orkney Mainland. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE14.

References

Ashmore, P J 2003, 'Orkney burials in the first millennium AD'. In Downes, J and Ritchie, A (eds) 2003, Sea Change: Orkney and Northern Europe in the Later Iron Age, Balgavies: Angus, 35. Downes, J 1994, 'Excavation of a Bronze Age burial at Mousland, Stromness, Orkney', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 124, 151.

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology, 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project: survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

Hedges, M E, 1976, 'The excavation of the Knowes of Quoyscottie, Orkney: a cemetery of the first millennium BC', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 130-155.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 25-26, no 53.

Site Number 35

Site Name Knowe of Brenda, burnt mound 260m WNW of Downatown

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1289

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326609

Northing 1023800

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (second millennium BC). It survives as a roughly crescent-shaped grass-covered mound measuring approximately 24m NE-SW by 11m transversely and standing up to 1.25m high. The mound is situated inland some 600m E of the Loch of Isbister, at around 16m above sea level, and is surrounded by low-lying boggy ground. The monument was originally scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is defined by a fenced enclosure and is rectilinear on plan measuring around 45m WSW-ENE by 23m NNW-SSE, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences and gates to allow

for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of the past, in particular prehistoric society and the construction and use of burnt mounds, and their placing in the landscape. The good state of preservation of the Knowe of Brenda and its proximity to other examples in the vicinity enhance this potential. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the



nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SE 40.

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence dating of Scottish burnt mounds: new investigations in Orkney and Shetland (unpubl PhD thesis, University of Glasgow).

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 106, 39-98.

RCAHMS, 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 35, no 114.

ScARF, 2013, 3.3.1 Burnt Mounds, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website, http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/331-burnt-mounds.

Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scot Archaeol Jour 29, 31-49.

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Site Number 36

Site Name Point of Buckquoy, four mounds

Type of Site Secular: mound (unallocated to other category)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1290

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324446

Northing 1028271

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises four mounds dating probably to the late Iron Age (Pictish) and Norse period (between around 500 and 1200 AD), or possibly earlier. The four mounds vary in size and form, but they are all turf-covered with exposed stone visible in places. The mounds

Mound 1 lies to the NE of the group. It is roughly oval in shape, measuring approximately 18m NE-SW by 14m transversely, with a ruined sheepfold on top. Mound 2 lies some 80m to the W. It is oblong in shape, measuring 22m by 16m and stands up to 1.2m high. Stone is visible within the mound and on its upper surface. Mound 3 is situated some 90m to the SE of Mound 2 and is crossed by a field boundary running approximately N-S. It is an amorphous shape with a mound around 10m in diameter to the N, and a raised terrace or platform to the S, extending approximately 12m and measuring 7m from E-W. Mound 4, known as the Knowe of Buckquoy, is the southernmost of the four mounds and lies around 85m SE of Mound 3. It is an elongated oval grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 23m E-W by 16m N-S and standing up to 1.5m high. It sits on a wider platform measuring approximately 30m E-W by 22m transversely. Stones are visible within the mound, including a stretch of walling exposed on the SW edge; stones protruding from its top give it an uneven surface. Previous excavations by Fraser in the 1930s revealed two lines of walling in the NW of Mound 4. One was a straight wall, four courses high, and the other was a single course of an arc of walling, indicative of the inner wall of a circular chamber.

The monument is situated on the flat promontory known as the Point of Buckquoy on the NW coast of Orkney Mainland at around 10m above sea level, ESE of the Brough of Birsay. The monument was last scheduled in 1965, but the documentation did not meet modern



standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area consists of four discrete polygons, two circular and two rectangular, each centred on one of the mounds. The scheduled area includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the stone-built shed S of Mound 3 and the above-ground elements of the stone field dyke running across Mound 3.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Pictish and Norse settlement, society, agriculture and economy. Given the size of the surviving mounds, the visible stone content (including walling), and the wealth of archaeological remains discovered during excavations in the near vicinity, especially along the Brough Road, these mounds are highly likely to contain very important structural remains and archaeological deposits. The potential for the survival of one or more figure-of-eight type houses within the mounds makes them particularly significant, as this is a relatively rare site type. The mounds have considerable potential to enhance our understanding of the processes of cultural change during the transition from Pictish to Norse authority in Orkney, and the rate and nature of Norse colonisation. The close proximity of these mounds to Pictish and Norse settlements on the Brough of Birsay and at numerous other broadly contemporary settlement and burial sites around the Bay of Birsay further enhances the monument's significance. There is considerable potential to study the relationship between these various sites which could develop our understanding of settlement patterns and changes in culture and economy during this crucial period in the history of Orkney and northern Scotland. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand changes in settlement, land-use and economy between the late Iron Age and the Norse period in Orkney.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the site as HY22NW 13 and HY22NW 11.

References

Morris, C D 1984, Viking and Early Settlement Archaeological Research Project, unpubl manuscript, Durham.

Morris, C D 1989, The Birsay Bay project: coastal sites beside the Brough Road, Birsay, Orkney: excavations 1976-1982, vol 1, monog ser no 1, Durham.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 18-19, no 25.

Ritchie, A 1979, 'Excavation of Pictish and Viking-Age farmsteads at Buckquoy, Orkney', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 174-227.

Site Number 37

Site Name Knowe of Crustan, mound, Crustan

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1292

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327473

Northing 1028971

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1790



From Canmore record:

HY22NE 5 2747 2897 and 2753 2906. (HY 2745 2896) Knowe of Crustan (NR)

A mound, 35ft in diameter, occupying a prominent position high up on a ridge. It was formerly surmounted by a standing stone 4 or 5ft high. The mound is much broken up and a trench through it from east to west is probably the work of Thomas (F W L Thomas 1852) who said that it 'did not contain any urn, but only burnt bones in a common cell'. (cf. 'Stanerandy' - HY22NE 15).

RCAHMS 1946.

The Knowe of Crustan is a turf-covered barrow, generally as described by the Commission, but slightly mutilated by War Department activities. Some 110.0m. to the NE, on the same ridge, at HY 2753 2906, there is a turf-covered mound c. 12.0m. in diameter and 1.0m. high. Its outline is somewhat vague but it is probably a barrow.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

Field Visit (17 October 1993)

#### **Orkney Barrows Project**

This mound was visited during the course of the Orkney Barrows Survey. It was noted that the tumulus 100m NE of this one was not visited.

This bowl-shaped mound measures 8.0m in diameter and 0.3m in height. Some gravelly soil was noted. The mound is very prominent on the skyline to the E for 1km and to the SE for more than 3km.

Information from the Orkney Barows Project (JD), 1993

#### References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 24, No.45 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12 The Orcadian. (1957) The Orcadian, 14 February 1957, The Orcadian.

Site Number 38

Site Name

Knowe of Dale, burnt mound, Quendal, Rousay

Type of Site

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1293

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337422

Northing 1032172

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved burnt mound, dating probably to the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a substantial crescent-shaped grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 21m NW-SE by 18m transversely and standing up to 2.3m high. It is composed mainly of accumulated burnt stones and other burnt material. The crescent-shaped mound is open on its W side, where a depression contains the remains of a rectangular stone-built trough. The mound is situated on low-lying boggy ground, immediately S of the Burn of Tafts. It is located some 1.2km inland from the W coast of Rousay, at around 50m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the documentation



did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 50m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. The Knowe of Dale is a particularly well preserved and unusually large example of a burnt mound, with high archaeological potential. Antiquarian excavation has demonstrated the presence of well-preserved internal structures, such as the insitu water trough. It is one of several burnt mounds in close proximity, which adds to its potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References

**Bibliography** 

RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 15.

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence Dating of Scottish Burnt Mounds: New Investigations in Orkney and Shetland, Unpublished PhD Thesis, University of Glasgow.

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Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK. Towrie, S 2013, 'A Brief History of Orkney - The Bronze Age', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm.

Site Number 39

Site Name Knowe of Dale, burnt mound, Marwick

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1294

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324951

Northing 1024338

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age



(second millennium BC). It survives as a roughly crescent-shaped grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 20m E-W by 30m N-S and standing up to 1m high. Traces of hollows may indicate some earlier disturbance, but overall the mound survives in reasonable condition. The burnt mound is situated inland at around 20m above sea level, some 750m NW of the Loch of Isbister, in an area of low-lying boggy ground. The monument was originally scheduled in 1939, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 50m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. The Knowe of Dale is a reasonably well preserved and unusually large example of a burnt mound, and is likely to preserve internal structures, such as a hearth and water trough. It is one of several burnt mounds in the vicinity, which adds to its potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 22.

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence dating of Scottish burnt mounds: new investigations in Orkney and Shetland (unpubl PhD thesis, University of Glasgow).

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 106, 39-98.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 32-3, no 89.

ScARF 2013, Burnt Mounds, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website, . Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scott Archaeol Jour 29, 31-49.

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK. Towrie, S 2013, A Brief History of Orkney - The Bronze Age,

Site Number 40

Site Name Knowe of Eversti, burnt mound

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1295

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323004

Northing 1022893

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved burnt mound, dating probably to the second millennium BC (Bronze Age). It survives as a substantial crescent-shaped grass-



covered mound, measuring approximately 27m E-W by 20m N-S and standing over 2m high. It is composed mainly of accumulated burnt stones and other burnt material. Two hollow areas to the NW and NE potentially represent two activity areas or trough sites. The mound is situated on low-lying boggy ground, immediately N of what was originally the Burn of Eversti. It is located some 300m inland from the NW coast of Orkney Mainland, at around 50m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 50m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type and its proximity to several other burnt mounds (such as the Knowe of Netherskaill and the Knowe of Garraquoy, both just over 1km away) gives it added potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 3.

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence Dating of Scottish Burnt Mounds: New Investigations in Orkney and Shetland, Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow.

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 106, 39-98.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 33, nos. 185, 189.

ScARF, 2013, 3.3.1 'Burnt Mounds', The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website, <a href="http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/331-burnt-mounds">http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/331-burnt-mounds</a>>.

Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scottish Archaeol J, 29(1)

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK.

Towrie, S 2013, 'A Brief History of Orkney, The Bronze Age',

<a href="http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm">http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm</a>>.

Site Number 41

Site Name Knowe of Flaws, mound 270m SSW of Flaws

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1296

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323134

Northing 1024350

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises an almost circular mound, probably a prehistoric burial mound,



possibly containing a chambered tomb. The monument was first scheduled in 1939, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The mound is almost circular, measuring about 35m N-S by 30m E-W, and stands up to about 2m high. The broad summit of the mound appears from a distance to be fairly level, but is in fact irregular, with several large hollows and some outcropping earth-fast slabs. In some of the hollows, several courses of drystone masonry are exposed, although the latter form no clear pattern. The sides of the mound grade gently down to the level, poorly-drained ground which surrounds it.

The area to be scheduled is circular, 40m in diameter, centred on the centre of the mound, but flattened on its N arc where it is bounded by a post-and-wire fence. The area includes the mound and an area around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map. The loose fence-posts currently lying on the surface of the mound, and the post-and-wire fence that borders the monument N of the mound, are excluded from the scheduling.

Site Number 42

Site Name Knowe of Garraquoy, burnt mound 265m WNW of Muce

Type of Site http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM1297#:~:text=Prehistoric%20domestic%

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1297

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323742

Northing 1023710

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (second millennium BC). It survives as a low, elongated grass-covered mound situated on a low rise in a cultivated field. The burnt mound has been spread by ploughing, which obscures its original dimensions; it now measures about 20m E-W by 50m N-S and stands up to 1.2m high. A hollow on the W side of the mound, adjacent to an old stream channel, may represent the site of a trough and activity area. There are indications of another hollow on the E side. The mound is situated inland about 1km SE of Marwick bay at around 20m above sea level, and is surrounded on its W side by low-lying boggy ground. The monument was originally scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is oval on plan, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of the past, in particular prehistoric society and the construction and use of burnt mounds, and their placing in the landscape. The reasonably good preservation of the monument and its proximity to other examples in the vicinity enhance this potential. The loss of the monument would impede our ability to understand the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 20.

References



Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence Dating of Scottish Burnt Mounds: New Investigations in Orkney and Shetland, (unpubl PhD Thesis, University of Glasgow).

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 106, 39-98.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 35, no 116.

ScARF, 2013, 3.3.1 Burnt Mounds, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website, . Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scott Archaeol Jour 29, 31-49.

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK. Towrie, S 2013, A Brief History of Orkney 'The Bronze Age, .

Site Number 43

Site Name Knowe of Gorn, burnt mound 195m S of Innister, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1298

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 338692 Northing 1033414

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It is visible as a substantial grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 15m in diameter and standing up to 1.6m high. It is composed primarily of burnt stones and other burnt material. This burnt mound appears to be undisturbed and well-preserved. A canalised stream lies immediately to the N. In 1933, surveyors recorded the remains of a possible tank in a hollow adjacent to the stream, but these are not visible today. The mound is situated on low-lying, improved pasture at the NW end of Rousay, at around 35m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 26m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, of the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type in an area rich in burnt mounds and other types of prehistoric site. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 3.

References

Anthony, I 2003, Luminescence dating of Scottish burnt mounds: new investigations in Orkney and Shetland (unpubl PhD thesis, University of Glasgow).

Hedges, J 1975, 'Excavation of two Orcadian burnt mounds at Liddle and Beaquoy', Proc Soc



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RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 225, no 586.

ScARF 2013, Burnt Mounds, The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework, http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/331-burnt-mounds [accessed July 2013]. Toolis, R 2005, 'Excavation of a burnt mound at Meur, Sanday, Orkney', Scott Archaeol J 29, 31-49

Topping, P 2011, Introduction to heritage assets: burnt mounds, English Heritage.

Towrie, S 2013, A brief history of Orkney 'the Bronze Age,

http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm [accessed July 2013].

Site Number 44

Site Name Knowes of Howana, mound 200m SW of Flanders, & remains of three others

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1299/HY22SE 24

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326476

Northing 1021851

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1856

From Canmore record:

HY22SE 24 centred 2654 2169

(Nine mounds, centred at HY 265 217) Knowes of Howana (NR)

OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

The four mounds known as the Knowes of Howana are not far from the farmhouse of Flanders, the most northerly being 130 yds west of it (? one of the two mounds at A - HY 2652 2186, or the mound at G - HY 2648 2184), and the other three in heathery land to the south, between the two farm roads that lead west to Upper Linklater from the main highway. The most northerly of the other three (? B - HY 2655 2177), a well-shaped mound covered with turf and heather, is 52ft in diameter and 6ft 6ins high, and has a small overgrown hole in the top. About 85 yds to the south is another well-shaped mound, also covered with turf and heather, 32ft in diameter and nearly 3ft high (? C - HY 2654 2168).

About 100 yds east of it is the last of the group (? one of the mounds at D - HY 2663 2165), 27ft in diameter and 18 ins in height. A few paces SE of the mound which is possibly B is the site of another mound, still faintly traceable in cultivated land (? E - HY 2656 2176).

RCAHMS 1946.

Only the remains of three mounds (B, C, and G) of the nine shown by the OS 6"map of 1903, can stil be seen, situated in conspicuous positions on the top and gentle south slopes of a low rise.

B and C are undoubtedly barrows, as described by the Commission.

The 'most northerly' mound, described by the Commission, is G, an artificial elongated mound, oriented N-S, which measures 13.0m. in breadth and 1.0m. in height. It has been truncated at its south end by the construction of a gun-pit during the last war and is possibly a long barrow or series of round barrows.

There is an amorphous swelling in the ground at F - HY 2646 2160, almost certainly the site of another barrow: the others, at A, E and D, have been destroyed. The farmer at Upper Linklater stated that a cist was found in mound E many years ago although he was unable to supply any details.



Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (NKB), 23 May 1967. Field Visit (8 October 1993) Orkney Barrows Project

There were nine mounds in this group, of which only three remain.

Knowes of Howana 1: HY 26550 21770. Measures 15.8m by 16.8m. Height 1.75m. Some clay with medium stones visible. This mound is very prominent on a crest, and is visible for 2-5km all round

Knowes of Howana 2: HY 26540 21680. The kerb is 3-4 stones wide, measuring 0.50m wide. The mound is flat, only visible as yellower clayey soil. It measures 7.3m in diameter and 0.2m in height. It is not as prominent as 1, and was damaged by construction during the war. Knowes of Howana 3: HY 26480 21840. This mound was damaged by wartime activity. Information from the Orkney Barrows Project (JD), 1993

#### References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 260, No.691 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 45

Site Name Knowe of Lairo, long cairn, E of Hullion, Frotoft

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: long cairn

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1300

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339910 Northing 1027967

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a horned long cairn, a neolithic chambered burial mound. Knowe of Lairo is approximately 50m long, oriented NW-SE, and is trapezoidal in plan, 8m wide at the NW end by 15m wide at the SE. Originally, low hornworks extended from each of the four angles, but only that from the S angle remains clearly visible. The cairn stands over 5m high at the SE end, tapering away to the NW. The entrance to the burial chamber is set offcentre in the SE facade. The chamber, which has been cleared and is now difficult of access, is sub-rectangular, with two pairs of side stalls and an end compartment. Although the chamber has been cleared, there has been little disturbance of the ground surface below and around the cairn

The area to be scheduled is rectangular, 100m long by 50m wide, to include the cairn, the traces of its hornworks, and an area around in which evidence for its construction and use may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as one of the finest chambered tombs in Orkney not in state care. It gains additional importance from its membership of the numerically small group of Orkney horned cairns, which may demonstrate linkages with other areas of N Scotland. Although the chamber has been emptied, there has been relatively little disturbance under and around the cairn, and much archaeological evidence may survive, particularly in the forecourt area, pertaining to the construction and use of the cairn.



Site Number 46

Site Name Knowe of Lingro, chambered cairn, Lingro, Wasbister, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1301

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339653

Northing 1032374

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of the remains of a prehistoric chambered burial cairn.

The cairn is turf-covered, and approximately rectangular on plan, with the rectangular mound apparently slightly larger than the original extent of the cairn. The top of the mound has been removed, revealing the top of the upright slabs of a stalled chamber at least 7m in length. It

seems possible that the cairn's contents survive substantially undisturbed.

The area to be scheduled is an irregular quadrilateral in the NE corner of a field, but excluding the field boundaries. It includes not only the cairn but an area around it in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the cairn, and associated ceremonial activities, may survive. The area measures 55m along the N edge, 36m on the E, 50m on the S and 35m on the

W, as shown in red on the accompanying map extract.

Site Number 47

Site Name Knowe of Makerhouse, burnt mound 100m ESE of Makerhouse

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1302

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329368

Northing 10211150

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a large burnt mound known as the Knowe of Makerhouse and surrounding remains. The mound is already scheduled, but this proposal extends protection to the surrounding remains.

The monument includes a turf covered mound of small burnt stones and earth, up to 1.7m high, its main portion being at least 24m in diameter, and an area of irregular ground including in places patches of burnt stone, in the eastern part of which is a slightly raised area containing much unburnt stone.

The bottom and near-vertical side of the drainage ditch forming the western boundary of the field in which the monument lies, and the above ground parts of all existing fences and gates, are not included in this scheduling.

The area to be scheduled comprises the burnt mound and an area around it in which remains associated with its construction and use are likely to survive. The area measures 50m square (except for, on its SW side, a small triangular area consisting of part of the ditch and land to the SW of the ditch) with its NW side at the SE side of the fence and its SW side at the NE outer



edge of a ditch, as marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a fine example of a Bronze Age settlement and its associated mound of potboilers.

References Bibliography

The monument is recorded in the RCAHMS as HY 22 SE 6. Ordnance Survey 6' map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

Site Number 48

Site Name Knowe of Midgarth, settlement and cairn

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type); sout

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1303

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339856 Northing 1023581

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument is a multi-period site comprising a burial cairn dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC), and a later settlement dating probably to the Iron Age (between about 800 BC and 500 AD). The monument is situated at the SE edge of a sheltered bay at Wood Wick. It lies immediately adjacent to the coast, at around 10m above sea level, and has wide views to the E across Gairsay Sound. The monument was originally scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this

The settlement is visible as a roughly oval, grass-covered mound measuring around 50m in diameter and standing up to 5m high. Two passageways are visible leading into the mound. The W passage is around 5m long and leads to two sub-rectangular chambers, one larger than the other; the floor level of the smaller one is lower than that of the passageway and reached by two steps. Another entrance on the N side reveals a slightly curving passageway extending about 10m; and exploratory excavation from the E towards the top of the mound exposed walling which may indicate that other passages and chambers are present. RCAHMS recorded a third entrance to the SE, and the remains of a hearth on the seashore near the N entrance. The cairn is situated 90m ESE of the settlement mound and comprises a grass-covered stony mound measuring approximately 12m in diameter and standing up to 1m high.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a field dyke and post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly Iron Age settlement in Orkney. The several entrance passageways and chambers indicate that the mound contains a complex series of structures, which may have been used for storage (styled by Davidson and Henshall as 'a variant souterrain'). It has the potential to improve our understanding of different structural types and construction techniques, as well as changes in settlement types over time, particularly when compared with other broadly contemporary settlement types



across Orkney, notably brochs. The monument also has the potential to inform our understanding of the design and construction of prehistoric burial monuments, and the changing nature of belief systems and burial practices in Bronze Age Orkney. The multi-period nature of the site, the confirmed survival of complex remains, and the presence of an earlier burial monument alongside a later settlement, make this a particularly interesting and important archaeological site, which can tell us about life and death in prehistoric Orkney. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the domestic architecture, settlement and society of Iron Age Orkney, and earlier burial practices and beliefs during prehistory.

References

**Bibliography** 

Other informationRCAHMS records the site as HY32SE 6.

References

Fraser, J 1928 'The antiquities of Rendall Parish', Proc Orkney Antiq Soc 6, 70

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 82, no 278.

Site Number 49

Site Name Runa, mound, Twatt

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1403

Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 326579 **Northing** 1024491

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a mound, probably the site of a Bronze Age burial. It is one of a former pair, the mound which stood to the E having been destroyed. The mound is about 1.5m high and 14m in diameter, and is situated on a slight rise in a field. There is an old report of a grave being found in it, but more evidence may survive. The area to scheduled is the same as originally scheduled, viz 20m in diameter centred on the mound. The destroyed mound was not covered by the map of the original scheduling, and is now excluded from the description.

The area of the scheduling is marked in red on the accompanying map.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as one of a group of Bronze Age burials in W. Mainland Orkney, which together have the potential to offer information which would increase

our understanding of the range and variety of prehistoric burial practices.

Site Number 50

Site Name Knowe of Nesthouse, settlement

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: mound (domestic or defensive, rather than ritual or funerar

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1304



Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327967

Northing 1025682

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a large settlement mound, occupying the whole of a D-shaped promontory on the E shore of the Loch of Boardhouse. The monument was first scheduled in 1937 but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present re-scheduling proposal rectifies this.

The mound measures about 50m NW-SE by 40m NE-SW and stands about 2m high. Its upper surface is very uneven and consists of spreads of large and small stones, amongst which vertical and corbelled wall faces, collapsed lintels and collapsed stonework are visible. Two well-preserved chambers lie within the northern half of the mound, both measuring about 3m wide by at least 4m long. The monument represents the remains of either a single multichambered drystone building (although it is unlikely to be a broch), or several contiguous single-celled buildings. Despite extensive quarrying in the 19th century, about half of the monument survives in reasonably good condition.

The lochside edge of the monument is a steep cliff about 1m high, within which further stonework and midden are exposed. The eastern edge of the settlement mound is marked by a steep slope, which descends to a broad area of damp ground. Large earthfast stones of the eastern edge of the damp ground, and irregularities in the ground surface, indicate the likely presence of further, possibly defensive, structures in this area.

The area to be scheduled is irregular in plan and measures a maximum of 63m N-S by 70m E-W, as marked in red on the accompanying map. It includes the whole of the mound and an area around it in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the settlement is likely to survive. The modern post-and-wire fence which runs across the mound from NE to SW is excluded from the scheduling.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the reasonably well-preserved remains of a substantial prehistoric stone-built settlement of unusual type. It is one of a small group of stone-built defensive structures of probable Iron Age date in Orkney, which appear to occupy naturally defensive sites but do not resemble the more common types of contemporary defensive structures, such as brochs or duns.

Although the monument has been partly quarried in the past, it retains considerable potential to provide important information about the architecture and economy of an important group of prehistoric settlements. It is also likely that there is high potential for the preservation of organic remains here and there on the site: within the lower levels of the buildings; within sediments on the loch bed; and in the marshy ground on the eastern side of the mound.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 6.

References:

RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3V, Edinburgh, 19

Spence M 1903, 'REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARIES', Saga Book Viking Club 3, Part 3, 312-318.

Site Number 51

Site Name Knowe of Ramsay, chambered cairn 300m E of Hullion, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn



Listing No./NRHE Number SM1306

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 340037

Northing 1028000

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is an Orkney-Cromarty type of stalled cairn known as the Knowe of Ramsay, dating from the Neolithic period (between 3500 and 2500 BC). It survives as a low turf-covered mound, with a hollow in the centre in which a number of flagstones are visible. The flagstones are likely to represent the chamber walls of individual compartments recorded in previous investigations. Sections of the outer wall-face can be traced intermittently around the edge of the mound. The cairn is particularly long and narrow, with fourteen recorded compartments. The mound is orientated NW-SE and measures approximately 35m in length by 14m in width (maximum) and stands up to 1.2m high. The NW end of the mound is rounded, while the SE end, where the entrance passage is located, is straight. The monument is situated on the edge of a natural terrace at 60m above sea level, with wide views in all directions, but particularly to the S and SE. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a substantial example of a chambered cairn which has the inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of belief systems and burial practices in Neolithic Orkney. There is high potential for the survival of important archaeological deposits and features within, around and beneath the cairn, which can add to our understanding of the nature of burial practices, how the monument was used and its significance. In Orkney, and in Rousay in particular, chambered cairns are an important component of the wider prehistoric landscape. They are often focal points and can inform our understanding of prehistoric land-use and social organisation. The Knowe of Ramsay is of particular significance as one of a concentrated group of chambered tombs on Rousay. It is also notable as one of the longest and largest examples of a stalled cairn in Orkney. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistoric times and the placing of such monuments within the landscape.

References Bibliography

Other information

RCAHMS records the site as HY42NW 22.

References

Callander, J Graham 1935-36, 'A stalled chambered cairn, the Knowe of Ramsay, at Hullion, Rousay, Orkney', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 70, 407-19.

Davidson, J L and Henshall, A S 1989, The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents, Edinburgh, 135-6.

Henshall, AS 1963, The chambered tombs of Scotland, Edinburgh, vol 1, 212.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 214-6, no 576.

RCAHMS (1982) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 16, Edinburgh, 15, no 9. Renfrew, A C 1979, Investigations in Orkney, Society of Antiquaries of London, Research Report 38, London, 4, 14, 72, 114, 160, 168, 201, 205-6, 210.

Renfrew, C, Harkness, D and Switsur, R 1976, 'Quanterness, radiocarbon and the Orkney



cairns', Antiquity 50, 194-204.

Site Number 52

Site Name Knowe of Rowiegar, chambered cairn and nearby remains

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn; enclosure (ritual or funerary rather than defen

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1307

Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 337352 **Northing** 1029774

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a partially excavated chambered cairn and nearby structures. The cairn itself has been scheduled for some years, but this proposal extends protection to the nearby remains in addition.

The cairn, of Orkney stalled variety, is oriented roughly NNW-SSE and is slightly over 30m long. Into it a souterrain was inserted during the later prehistoric period. A curvilinear bank about 2m across and 0.5m high encloses an area running from the cairn south-westward towards the sea. Other structures, particularly prominent for some 10m north-east of the cairn, appear as masonry foundations and slabs, including a socket-stone apparently intended to receive the pivot stone of a door. These remains of buildings appear to be broadly contemporary which those shown by excavation to have risen on the summit of the cairn at some time after its upper parts had fallen into ruin, and the enclosure in particular may be of ritual rather than agricultural significance.

The area to be scheduled measures 63m NNW-SSE by up to 50m WSW-ENE. The SSE corner is at the modern wall WSW of the cairn, 30m SE of the angle in the modern wall; its NNW corner is at that wall 35m NW of the angle, and its ENE side is 50m ENE of the angle (and thus slightly over 20m ENE of the ENE side of the mound of the chambered cairn), all as marked in red on the accompanying map extract. The scheduling excludes the modern wall above its foundations but includes its foundations below the modern ground surface and whatever lies

beneath them.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of the importance of the chambered cairn and potentially ritual enclosure and associated remains to the understanding of Neolithic and later burial and ceremonial rituals.

References Bibliography

Davidson and Henshall. (1989) The Chambered Cairns of Orkney, EUP.

Site Number 53

Site Name Knowe of Scorn, burnt mound

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1308

Status Scheduled Monument



Easting 324984

Northing 1023883

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a grass-covered linear mound, composed of burnt stone and soil, with a central gulley dividing it into two parts. The mound was first scheduled in 1937 but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: this re-scheduling rectifies this.

The mound is aligned roughly NNE-SSW and measures about 27m by 14m maximum, but tapers at the S end to about 11m wide. It stands up to 1.5m high at its N end (the nearest point to the shore of the Loch of Isbister) and reduces in height to about 0.75m at its southern terminal. The sides of the mound slope fairly steeply in general, but are less clearly defined towards the northern end. A central gulley, up to 0.5m deep, along the long axis of the mound, divides the mound into two parts and opens out into a roughly circular depression at its N end, within which several substantial stone blocks are exposed. Here and there, where the grass cover is broken, burnt stone is visible within a dark soil matrix.

Burnt mounds are generally seen as dating to the 2nd millennium BC, although both earlier and later examples are known. They comprise the waste products of heating water in a nearby stone-lined tank, with the water brought to boiling point by placing hot rocks in the tank. They are usually located close to a water source and consist of one or many heaps of heat-fractured or scorched rock, sometimes rich in charcoal, arranged around three sides of a water tank. On occasion the hearth upon which the stones were heated is also found. The mounds usually display evidence of repeated use over a long period. Two common interpretations of this type of site are that the trough was used either to cook food, or to provide steam for a sauna-like hath

The area to be scheduled is a rectangle 50m N-S by 40m E-W, centred on the centre of the mound, as marked in red on the accompanying map. It includes the burnt mound and an area of ground around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use is likely to survive. The area is enclosed by a modern post-and-wire fence, which is excluded from the scheduling.

Site Number 54

Site Name Knowe of Smirrus, mound 350m NW of Gelderhouse

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1309/HY22SE 17
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329146

Northing 1021554

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1848

From Canmore record:

HY22SE 17 2914 2156.

(HY 2913 2155) Knowe of Smirrus (NR) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

A small piece of rude pottery was picked up by the Commission in 1929 and a few stone artifacts have been found (J Fraser 1925). In 1929 the cairn measured about 100ft in diameter and up to 6ft in height. The outline was irregular as a considerable part of the cairn had been cut away.

cut away.



**RCAHMS 1946.** 

A cairn containing the remains of a chamber or cist exposed by excavation about 1946. R W Feachem 1963.

The Knowe of Smirrus is the unintelligible remains of a barrow, mainly of earth with some stones, most of which has been destroyed by quarrying. The probable cap-stone of a cist is still discernible in the top.

Visited by OS (NKB) 18 May 1967.

#### Orkney Smr Note

This mound covers an area of about 100ft each way and rise to a maximum height of about 6ft on the N. It has no regular outline now as a portion of it has been cut away. Recent excavations showed that it contains an angular structure ofcarefully built dry-stone masonry, as to the pecise character of which nothing can be said without further examination. The major axis of the building appears to lie NNE and SSW. [R1] [R2] It has been mutilated and despoiled, but the tattered reains of a stony structure which appear to be those of part of a chamberor cist can be seen among the debris. Listed under stones and cairns. [R3] Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

#### References

Feachem, R. (1963b) A guide to prehistoric Scotland. 1st. London. Page(s): 82 RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.2.FEA

Fraser, J. (1925) 'Antiquities of Birsay Parish', Proc Orkney Antiq Soc, vol. 3, 1924-5. Page(s): 22 RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 27, No.60 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number

**Site Name** Knowe of Swandro, mound 400m SSE of Skaill, Westside

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: mound (domestic or defensive, rather than ritual or funerar Type of Site

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1310/HY32NE 19 **Status Scheduled Monument** 

337531 **Easting** 1029661 Northing

**Parish** 

Rousay And Egilsay Council **Orkney Islands** Description Canmore ID: 2169 From Canmore record:

HY32NE 19 3753 2966

(HY 3752 2968) Knowe of Swandro (NR) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

The much-disturbed remains of a stony mound. To judge from a series of large slabs set on edge over an area measuring roughly 72 ft by 24 ft, there may have been a group of graves here, possibly of Viking origin. 'This conjecture is to some extent supported by the fact that a typical Viking sword and a shield-boss (HY32NE 3) ... were ploughed up separately close to the site: on the onther hand, these Viking relics may have been intrusions in a previously existing

structure.' **RCAHMS 1946.** 

Knowe of Swandro, a mutilated turf-covered mound 1.5 m. high, apparently containing the



remains of a drystone structure. Unable to classify, but possibly associated with the nearby Viking hall (HY32NE 17).

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (NKB), 8 June 1967.

The size and shape of this turf-covered mound suggests it to be the NE half of a broch, and a trench cut across it (but now filled in) revealed enough surviving walling to support this classification. Paving reaching from the nearby Viking hall for several yards towards this mound suggests that the mound provided a source of building material for the hall and farmstead. Visited by OS (AA), 10 October 1972.

Orkney Smr Note (September 1980)

Obscure: has been fancifully linked to Sweyn Asleifsson; more likely from svin swine - Marwick Place Names of Rousay Kirkwall 1947 p 90 suggests svin-trod swine-run.

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... immense piles of stones, evidently the ruins of some ancient structure, around which are to be seen graves formed with stones set on edge ... the name of Swendrow which it bears...[R1] Semicircular turfed mound as described, open towards sea. It seems a bit insubstantial for a broch and it would be necessary to assume a lot of past erosion (not now active) to account for destruction of seaward side. It is now 4m clear of shoreline. Probably a prehistoric house, possibly wheelhouse type.

Information from Orkney SMR (RGL) Sep 80.

Publication Account (2002) Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1 HY32 8 KNOWE OF SWANDRO HY/375297

Possible broch on Rousay I. a much disturbed stony mound which seems to contain the remains of a dry stone building, perhaps the north-east half of a broch [1]. A Viking hall is nearby [1] and a Viking sword and shield boss were ploughed up separately close to the site [1, 3, 4]. No doubt any nearby broch would have been robbed of stone for this hall.

Sources: 1. OS card HY 32 NE 19: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 579, 220: 3. "Notes on relics of the Viking period", Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 10 (1872-74) 4. Brogger 1929, 131-2: 5. Lamb 1982, 22. E W MacKie 2002

#### Excavation (23 June 2010 - 14 July 2010)

HY 3727 3037 (Brough), HY 3723 3036 (Ditch), HY 3753 2966 (Swandro) A team from the University of Bradford, Orkney College (UHI) and City University New York cleaned, recorded and sampled three sites from 23 June–14 July 2010 as part of the 'Orkney – Gateway to the Atlantic Project'. The project aims to investigate and record coastal sites in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre which are threatened by rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

The Knowe of Swandro.

This site which consists of a mound with stone inclusions and is located behind a beach on the Bay of Swandro, close to the Norse house site known as Westness (HY32NE 17), is also thought to be Iron Age indate. Visual examination prior to this season's excavations suggested that the mound is subject to coastal erosion.

The objectives for the 2010 season's work were to locate a reported earlier excavation trench and to characterise the mound, which has been variously described as a broch, a 'mutilated turf-covered mound' (OS 1967) and a 'stony mound' (RCAHMS 1946). The planned investigation extended onto the beach rather than along the coastline as it became obvious that the site extended under the storm beach towards the tide line.

A small trench,  $2.5\,x$  8m, was opened across the SE end of the curving bank and hollow on the top of the mound.

The hollow centre of the mound, which had appeared to be the result of earlier investigations, seems not to have been disturbed; there was a fine and even layer of shillet sealing this area which appeared to be a weathering deposit. A Cleaning the erosion face of the South Howe mound tumble of rocks sealed the shillet and butted a stone feature which appeared to be structural and may be a partially destroyed length of wall. Two other small stone features may also be fragments of walling but this cannot be determined without more extensive excavation.



There was an area of paving composed of large, flat worn stones in the E of the trench. This was sealed by a small patch of limpet midden in the NE corner. The very top of an orthostat was visible in the SE corner of the trench.

The area was cleaned, planned and photographed and the contexts recorded. A number of conclusions can be drawn on the basis of the evidence from this season's work. There are a number of phases to this part of the mound and the presence of worn paving at the very top of the sequence, sealing or butting an earlier wall, suggests that the site is composed of more than a single structure. The presence of the undisturbed shillet suggests that wherever the earlier investigations were located, the hollow area is not the result of this but rather represents a weathering layer over undisturbed contexts.

The tops of a series of orthostats had been noted among the boulders and shingle of the storm beach and appeared to be a previously unrecognised part of the site. Investigation of these features completely changed the interpretation of the mound. An area, c5 x 6m, stretching from the erosion bank at the top of the beach down towards the sea was cleared. The orthostats, which had appeared level with the boulders and shingle, survived to a height of at least 0.5m and appeared to form the backs and sides of three cells of a curving dry stone structure, whose projected centre was somewhere below the current high tide mark. The largest cell, to the E of the feature, contained several phases of paving and also had paving in front of a long dressed kerb stone which formed the front of the cell. The two smaller cells to the W also retained areas of paving and patches of ash rich midden survived between and on top of the stones. This midden produced well preserved bone and pottery which on initial examination appears to be of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. The structure appears to continue towards the high tide mark and lies well within the area of the spring tides and of storm events. The back of the structure was sealed by more midden of a later date, which appeared to be earlier than the features investigated at the top of the mound, although this cannot be confirmed without further investigation.

Bulk samples were taken from the midden contexts within the structure. The charred plant remains and animal bones will provide palaeoeconomic information and radiocarbon dates. The excavated beach area was consolidated with geotextile, sandbags and boulders, whilst the area at the top of the mound was backfilled and returfed.

Archive and reports: Orkney SMR and RCAHMS (intended) Digital record: ADS (intended) Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney College and City University of New York

Archaeological Evaluation (22 July 2011 - 27 July 2011)

HY 3727 3037 (Brough) and HY 3753 2966 (Swandro) A team from the University of Bradford, Orkney College (UHI) and City University New York cleaned, recorded and sampled the site at Swandro, 22 June–27 July 2011, as part of the 'Orkney Gateway to the Atlantic Project'. The project aims to investigate and record coastal sites in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre which are threatened by rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

The Mound of Brough The man-made mound at 'Brough', also known as South Howe, on the SW shore of Rousay contains an eroding Iron Age broch and houses. These structures seem to be overlain by Late Norse buildings which in turn are overlain by 19th-century middens. This broch is only a few hundred metres away from the Broch of Midhowe.

The Knowe of Swandro Work on the Knowe of Swandro this year again concentrated on two areas, the mound itself (Area B) and the eroding beach deposits (Area A). An area 4 x 10m was deturfed on the mound and features defined. The structural elements noted in the 2010 season were investigated and appear to be the remains of a substantial double faced curving wall. A small area of paving close to the beach section appears to be later in date.

On the storm beach, the cleared area was extended to  $4 \times 10m$ , to assess the extent of the remaining deposits. Midden and other features were found to extend to the high tide mark and further test pitting at low tide revealed that anthropogenic deposits stretched under the storm beach and sand deposits to the low tide line. A sondage in the E corner of the excavated area showed a complex series of stony midden deposits to a depth of >1.5m below the eroded surface; at this depth, a freshwater spring made excavation difficult, but the sondage demonstrates the depth of midden deposits under the eroding beach. Finds from these middens include a worked bone pin, pottery and well preserved bone.

The remains of a prehistoric structure, first investigated last year, were further excavated and samples taken for environmental evidence and radiocarbon dating. A single radiocarbon date indicated a date in the 1st to 2nd century AD. Archaeomagnetic dates obtained from an earlier hearth indicate use in the 4th to 2nd centuries BC.



Clearance of large beach boulders on the W edge of Area A revealed large dressed stones, much battered by the storm beach, forming a substantial wall which could be shown to be the continuation of the large curving wall seen in Area B.

Stratigraphically above the structure excavated last year, and physically further up the beach, a paved area, a fragment of hearth surround and a series of cells formed from orthostats indicated the presence of a later structure. The evidence suggests that Swandro is a multi-period settlement.

This years excavations have demonstrated that the deposits at Swandro are much deeper than initially suspected and the extent of the site much greater. Marine erosion has proceeded in a stepped fashion, so that the earliest deposits survive in greatest extent below the storm beach, whilst the later deposits are fragmentary.

Archive and reports: Orkney SMR and RCAHMS (intended). Digital record: ADS (intended) Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney College and City University of New York

University of Bradford/ Orkney College, 2011

Archaeological Evaluation (20 June 2012 - 19 July 2012)

HY 3753 2966 (Swandro) A team from the University of Bradford, Orkney College (UHI), William Paterson University and City University New York cleaned, recorded and sampled the site at Swandro, 20 June – 19 July 2012, as part of the 'Orkney – Gateway to the Atlantic Project'. The project aims to investigate and record coastal sites in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre which are threatened by rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

The Beach The investigation of odd stones just visible among the pebbles on the beach below the eroding site has completely changed our understanding of this enigmatic mound. Initial clearance of the overlying beach material revealed the remains of an Iron Age structure. This was confirmed by an AMS radiocarbon date of 25BC-AD130 at 95% confidence for carbonised barley from a midden which sealed flagging in one of the compartments. Work in 2011 (DES 2011, 136–7) enabled the nature of the erosion to be more fully understood together with an indication of archaeological survival and potential. The sea had created terraces or steps within the archaeological mound, with each of these eroded scars being covered by redeposited beach material.

In 2011, on the NW western side of the cleared archaeological surface, the remains of a substantial outer wall forming the arc of a large circular building seemed to form the continuation of a crescent shaped ridge at the top of the mound, and it was thought to be the outer wall of a large roundhouse of broch proportions.

A Chambered Cairn? In 2012 this substantial wall was investigated more fully; clearance of the overlying beach material revealed a circular structure. This was formed by a number of concentric outer wall faces. Each arc of wall was backed by a stone and midden core. Rather than the expected broch, the structure of this monument more closely parallels the construction of a Neolithic chambered tomb. A wall running eastwards is suggestive of an outer-work leading into an entrance passage. Cutting into and sealing the top of this enigmatic monument were further Iron Age buildings represented by truncated flag floors and orthostats. Despite aggressive erosion, shown by the worn outer faces of the walls which have been battered by the sea and the constant movement of the boulder beach, this probable chambered cairn still remains intact, and has great archaeological potential.

The excavation of the seaward outer rings proved difficult, as the sea would cover these at high tide and work had to be timed to coincide with low tides, after substantial amounts of bailing. Bone from the Iron Age middens and between the concentric walls of the cairn survives well even in areas truncated by the sea. This means that the potential for in situ human remains within the tomb is high and in consequence this is an extremely important site. Re-evaluation of existing tomb assemblages are currently challenging previously held interpretations. This site offers the rare opportunity to excavate using modern methods and techniques, a tomb which in a few years time will be completely lost to the Atlantic.

Work to the SE in 2012 saw the continuation of Late Iron Age walling on the foreshore under the boulder beach and now indicates that the Norse Hall overlies earlier settlement material. This year's excavations have demonstrated that the deposits at Swandro are more extensive and the deeper deposits are much earlier than initially suspected.

Archive and report: Orkney SMR and RCAHMS (intended). Digital records: ADS
Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney College, City University of New
York and William Patterson University
SJ Dockrill, University of Bradford



JM Bond, Orkney College J Downes, IL Mainland, R Maher, 2012

Archaeological Evaluation (23 June 2013 - 19 July 2013)

HY 3753 2966 A team from the University of Bradford, Orkney College (UHI), William Paterson University and City University New York cleaned, recorded and sampled the site at Swandro, 23 June – 19 July 2013, as part of the 'Orkney – Gateway to the Atlantic Project'. The project aims to investigate and record coastal sites in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre which are threatened by rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Work on the Knowe of Swandro this year again concentrated on two areas, the mound itself and the eroding beach deposits.

In the first season of the project, upright stones just visible among the pebbles on the beach below the eroding site were investigated and proved to be part of a series of structures and features surviving beneath the storm beach (DES 2010, 123). Subsequent investigation of this area has completely changed our understanding of this enigmatic mound.

Initial clearance of the overlying beach material revealed the remains of what appeared to be an Iron Age structure. This was confirmed by an AMS radiocarbon date of 25BC–AD130 at 95% confidence for carbonised barley from a midden that sealed flagging in one of the compartments. Work in 2012 (DES 2012, 135) enabled the nature of the erosion to be more fully understood, indicating significant archaeological survival and potential. It can now be seen that the sea has created terraces or steps within the archaeological mound, with each of these eroded scars being covered by redeposited beach material.

In 2011 on the NW side of the cleared surface, the remains of a substantial and well built outer wall forming the arc of a large circular building were revealed. Further clearance of the beach material in 2012 showed that there was a series of three substantial concentric outward facing walls, and the structure appears to be a Neolithic chambered cairn, surrounded by later settlement.

Work in 2013 concentrated on the continuation of the site to the SE of the mound, extending towards the Norse house site known as Westness. Investigation this year has demonstrated a Late Iron Age and Pictish phase of Swandro, indicated by cellular structures contained by the infilled remains of more substantial Iron Age structures. Material recovered from these structures included fragments of glass and copper alloy, hammer scale, slag, vitrified material and a small copper alloy projecting-headed pin. It can now be seen that the truncated remains of the Norse hall of Westness clearly overlie the Swandro Late Iron Age settlement. On the beach close to the chambered cairn, the truncated remains of the earliest Iron Age building (Structure 1) were further investigated and found to contain an orthostat and stone construction interpreted as an oven. This feature has a close parallel with the 1st century BC oven excavated by the authors in Structure 8 at Old Scatness, Shetland.

Excavation of the shoreward part of the Swandro mound continued in 2013 and indicated that stone from the upper parts of the Neolithic chambered cairn had been robbed in antiquity. Excavation identified shillet and midden deposits in this area of disturbance, though the date of this activity has not yet been established.

Archive and report: Orkney HER and RCAHMS (intended). Digital records: ADS Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney College, City University of New York and William Patterson University

SJ Dockrill and JM Bond, University of Bradford and R Maher, Orkney College, 2013 (Source: DES)

Archaeological Evaluation (16 June 2014 - 26 July 2014)

HY 3753 2966 A team from the University of Bradford, Orkney College (UHI), William Paterson University and City University New York cleaned, recorded and sampled the site at Swandro, 16 June – 26 July 2014, as part of the Orkney Gateway to the Atlantic Project. The project aims to investigate and record coastal sites in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre which are threatened by rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

Work in 2014 focused on the beach where investigation of set orthostatic stones just visible among the pebbles on the beach indicated archaeological survival below the eroding site. Investigation of these features has completely changed our understanding of this enigmatic mound. Initial clearance of the overlying beach material revealed the remains of an Iron Age structure. This was confirmed by an AMS radiocarbon date of 25BC-AD130 at 95% confidence



for carbonized barley from a midden which sealed flagging in one of the compartments. Work in 2012 enabled the nature of the erosion to be more fully understood, indicating significant archaeological survival and potential. The sea had created terraces or steps within the archaeological mound, with each of these eroded scars being covered by redeposited beach material. In 2012 on the NW side of the cleared archaeological surface the remains of a substantial outer wall forming the arc of a large circular

building seemed to be the continuation of a crescent shaped ridge at the top of the mound. It was thought at first that this was the outer wall of a large roundhouse of broch proportions. However, the presence of a series of stepped concentric outer wall-faces with a mixed midden and rubble core suggests that the core of the mound is a Neolithic chambered cairn. Work in 2013 concentrated on the continuation of the site SE of the mound. Investigation demonstrated that a Pictish phase, indicated by cellular structures contained within the infilled remains of more substantial Iron Age structures, show a continuation of the site on the foreshore and under

the boulder beach. The truncated remains of the 'Norse Hall' of Westness, previously excavated by Kaland (1993), clearly overlies the Late Iron Age settlement.

Excavation of the centre of the Swandro mound continued in 2014 and this now clearly indicates that the mound forming the Neolithic chambered cairn had been partially robbed in the Iron Age and infilled with Late Iron Age (Pictish) midden. On the seaward area of the beach under the mound, the truncated building (Structure 1) was further investigated and midden was found to continue seaward, but was clearly affected by the tidal action.

Work was concentrated on the excavation of the later Iron Age (Pictish) elements of the site. Here buildings were found to be nested in larger structures which had been truncated by the sea. The truncations were cleaned as sections, sampled and recorded. The excavation of one of these later truncated buildings (Structure 2) saw the sampling of floor surfaces down to the primary flag floor. The continued excavation and

sampling of the infill of a third building (Structure 3), close to the Westness houses, but partly within the eroding beach area, confirmed its form as a Pictish style multi-cellular building and revealed the presence of slag and crucible material suggesting copper alloy working in the deliberately deposited infill.

One of the larger structures into which the later structures are nested became clearer during this season's excavation, with a substantial wall in the erosion section and a series of paved surfaces butting the wall on the outside face of the curve. A feature consisting of a set of paving slabs which had cracked and tipped downwards appears to be related to this structure. When the flags were removed what appears to be a well was revealed, with dry stone walls, a flagged area around the top and a set of steps inside. When some of the rubble was removed it was found that the well was still active, refilling to the base of the steps with spring water.

Archive and report: Orkney SMR and RCAHMS. Digital records: ADS

Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney College, City University of New York and William Patterson University

SJ Dockrill, JM Bond and R Maher – University of Bradford (SJD/JMB) and Orkney College (RM) (Source: DES)

#### Excavation (July 2016)

HY 3753 2966 (HY32NE 19) Evaluative excavation continued in July 2016. The archaeology is suffering from erosion from the sea which has cut into a settlement mound (Iron Age to Norse) developed upon the eastern flank of a Neolithic chambered cairn. Previous seasons have established the presence of a sequence of structures which has been exposed by the sea cutting into the archaeology forming a series of terraces. The erosion has provided an opportunity to examine and sample this archaeological sequence.

Unfortunately, the deposits surviving at the lowest terrace have suffered from extensive erosion, with much of the midden material having been washed away and the larger structural stones having been smoothed by the movement of water and beach material.

The chambered cairn – The outer casement wall of the Neolithic chambered cairn is butted by a single-faced alignment of stones, suggestive of a retaining wall. This was first observed in the 2012 season and again in 2015, when a much greater degree of erosion was noted. In 2016 this feature was investigated further in order to determine whether an old ground surface or underlying archaeology had survived the effects of the erosion by the sea. A number of large water worn boulders were found to be redeposited, implying the movement of large 'storm thrown' rocks. These sealed a dark yellow sand and a black compacted sand



containing decayed seaweed with no surviving evidence of any anthropogenic deposits or an in situ old ground surface.

Despite this sequence of redeposited material in the scoured area seawards of the cairn wall, the remains of a reddish ashy midden deposit was found to be sealed by the secondary retaining wall.

The entrance passage leading into the chambered cairn was also defined in 2015, upon the uppermost (landward) erosion terrace. The passage walls are single faced and the upper infill formed by a layer of small angular stone (shillet) containing copper alloy fragments, large fish and mammal bones appeared to reflect late activity. This was confirmed by the finding in post-excavation of a coin of EANRED, King of Northumbria AD810–840, together with the near complete skeleton of a cat. This disturbance and infilling might represent Viking period activity. Work in 2016 continued to define the top of the passage and to assess the nature of this later activity. The further excavation of the passage revealed more faunal remains including of several sheep displaying metal butchery marks. This deposit sealed large angular rubble which appears to be the infill of the passage.

Structure 1: A truncated Mid Iron Age roundhouse – This roundhouse is represented by just one segment of its circumferential cells, the interior and southern portion having been lost to the sea. The circumference of the building is formed by orthostats; the floor of the northern radial cell was

formed by a single flag, which had been made to fit the cell.

Several notches had been cut into the flag, which appear to be post settings. It seems likely that this would have supported a mezzanine level around the circumference of the structure. The presence of such mezzanine structures is paralleled by Middle Iron Age remains at Old Scatness, Shetland.

Structure 2: A Late Iron Age roundhouse – Definition of the upper eroded terrace of the beach identified the remains of what appeared to be half of a cell-like circular structure. In 2016, investigation indicated that an orthostatic divide with flagging either side which had been identified in 2015, were found to be clearly later elements forming a modification to the building. These were removed to reveal the original form of the building, the curved line of orthostats together with a door sill (threshold stone) indicating a western entrance. The seaward section demonstrated a greater degree of erosion and did not survive. A floor level was formed by large flags with evidence of orthostatic radial divisions. Entering this structure via the threshold stone, one of these radial orthostats blocks any turn to the left (north/landward side), confining movement to the centre or to the right. This phenomenon of barring entry to the left has also been observed within other Iron Age roundhouse structures in the Northern Isles at Old Scatness (Shetland). The flag floor and the hearth are clearly part of a sequence of floors representing several modifications to the building as the remains of part of a rectangular stone tank could be clearly identified under the flags. Structure 3 – A cellular structure with features suggesting a Pictish date, mostly still sealed by the northern landward section. The southern wall was identified and excavated first, and revealed evidence of an intramural cupboard, adjacent to a complete in situ cupboard. The

revealed evidence of an inframural cupboard, adjacent to a complete in situ cupboard. The contexts in the lower sequence under the rubble infill were found to contain some evidence of metal working with finds of slag, small crucibles and mould fragments together with evidence of fragments of copper alloy. A series of steps was found to lead from the N (landward) section into the building, in a curved passageway whose stones demonstrated wear consistent with rubbing caused by the passage of the past occupants. The presence of a threshold stone in the narrow passage, together with a bolt hole clearly indicates that there would have been a physical door dividing the passage and the central area of the structure. Archive: NRHE

Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, and Rousay Development Trust JM Bond, SJ Dockrill and J Downes – University of Bradford and Archaeology Institute, UHI

(Source: DES, Volume 17)

Excavation (July 2017)

HY 3753 2966 (HY32NE 19) Evaluative excavation continued upon the eroding beach at Swandro for a four week season in July 2017. The archaeology is suffering from erosion from the sea which has cut into a settlement mound (Mid Iron Age to Norse) developed upon the eastern flank of a Neolithic chambered cairn. Previous seasons have established the presence of a sequence of structures which has been exposed by the sea cutting into the archaeology,



forming a series of terraces. The erosion has provided an opportunity to examine and sample this archaeological sequence. Unfortunately, the deposits surviving at the lowest terrace have suffered from extensive erosion, with much of the matrix having been washed away, leaving the larger structural stones, which have been smoothed by the movement of water and beach material.

In 2017, work concentrated on the later deposits within the passage of the chambered cairn, the eroding area SE of the outer casement wall of the cairn, and investigation also continued within two of the Iron Age buildings (Structure 2 and Structure 3).

The Chambered Cairn – The outer casement wall of the Neolithic chambered cairn is butted by a single faced alignment of stones, suggestive of a retaining wall. This was first observed in the 2012 season and again in 2015, when a much greater degree of erosion was noted. In 2016 this feature was investigated further in order to determine whether an old ground surface or underlying archaeology had survived the effects of the erosion by the sea. A number of large water worn boulders were found to be redeposited, implying the movement of large 'storm thrown' rocks. There is no surviving evidence of any anthropogenic deposits or an in situ old ground surface on the seaward arc of the outer casement wall of the cairn. A sequence of deposits was found to be retained by a second wall butting the outer casement wall and was investigated in 2017. These deposits have been subject to some tidal scouring but appear to be a sequence predating the Mid Iron Age roundhouse Structure 1. Investigation in 2017 provided strong evidence to suggest that there are also stratigraphic elements (structural and depositional) in this area that predate the construction of the outer casement wall of the chambered cairn.

The entrance passage leading into the chambered cairn was defined in 2015 upon the uppermost (landward) erosion terrace. The passage walls are single faced and the upper infill formed by a layer of small angular stone (shillet) containing copper alloy fragments, large fish and mammal bone appeared to reflect late activity. This was confirmed by the finding in post-excavation of a coin of EANRED, King of Northumbria AD810–840, together with the bones of several cats. This disturbance and infilling may represent Viking period activity. Work in 2016 continued to define the top of the passage and to assess the nature of this later activity. The further excavation of the passage revealed more faunal remains, including bones of sheep displaying metal butchery marks. The remnants of these later deposits were excavated in 2017 and the large angular rubble which appears to be the infill of the passage was defined along the length of the passage. The area outside of the passage was also investigated in 2017 and evidence of in situ lintels of a cell-like feature was found on the landward side of the passage entrance outside the casement wall.

Structure 2: A Late Iron Age roundhouse – Definition of the upper eroded terrace of the beach identified the remains of what appeared to be half of a cell-like circular structure. In 2016, investigation indicated that an orthostatic divide with flagging either side (which had been identified in 2015), were clearly later elements forming a modification to the building. These were removed to reveal the original form of the building, the curved line of orthostats together with a door sill (threshold stone) indicating a western entrance. The seaward section demonstrated a greater degree of erosion and did not survive. In 2016 a floor level defined by large flags was identified. The flag floor and the hearth are clearly part of a sequence of floors representing several modifications to the building as the remains of part of a rectangular stone tank could be clearly identified under the flags. In 2017 these flags were lifted and the sequence of ash, mixed 'midden like' material and stone packing were investigated. The rubble infill of the tank was excavated and the lower infill sampled. During the excavation a coin, a Nummus of Constans dating to AD348–350, was found.

Structure 3 – A cellular structure with features suggesting a Pictish date, mostly still sealed by the northern (landward) section. The southern wall was identified and excavated first and revealed evidence of an intramural cupboard, adjacent to a complete in situ cupboard. In 2016 the contexts in the lower sequence under the rubble infill were found to contain some evidence of metalworking with finds of slag, small crucibles and mould fragments together with evidence of fragments of copper alloy. A series of steps were found to lead from the N (landward) section into the building, in a curved passageway whose stones demonstrated wear consistent with rubbing caused by the passage of the past occupants. The presence of a



threshold stone in the narrow passage, together with a bolt hole, clearly indicates that there would have been a physical door dividing the passage from the central area of the structure. Investigation in 2017 (aided by the archaeometallurgist Dr Gerry McDonnell) identified more evidence of metalworking including part of a fired clay tuyère. Evidence of a hearth, which had two phases of use and an associated ash rich surface was investigated and sampled. Further archaeological evidence for both copper alloy working and iron working was recovered in the 2017 season. A fallen, large elongated beach cobble appeared to have been once set upright adjacent to the hearth. The end of this stone had damage which was suggestive of its use as an anvil. Earlier wall elements representing a larger building, in which this Pictish cellular structure was constructed, were further defined in 2017.

Archive: NRHI

Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Rousay Development Trust, Rousay Heritage Trust, Swandro Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, and Orkney Archaeological Society

JM Bond and SJ Dockrill – University of Bradford/Archaeology Institute, UHI

(Source: DES, Volume 18)

Geophysical Survey (16 April 2018 - 26 April 2018)

HY 37051 30722 (North Howe), HY 37274 30377 (South Howe), HY 37352 29774 (Knowe of Rowiegar), HY 37531 29661 (Knowe of Swandro), HY 37626 29296 (Westness Viking Houses), HY 4398 3224 (Rinyo) and HY 40065 27452 (Burrian)

The RGK undertook a survey campaign on Rousay, 16-26 April 2018, as part of the Boyne to Brodgar Project. It aimed to provide a landscape perspective of two Neolithic core areas on the island – Westside and Rinyo. Moreover, the diachronic development in both areas will be researched, concentrating on the processes of formation and degradation of land use over time

At Westside the survey area stretched from Westness Farm in the S to the rugged area N of North Howe, where the rocky surface and shrubbery prevented further activity (c56ha). The survey focused on the lower fields close to the coast and to the known Neolithic chambered cairns of Knowe of Swandro, Knowe of Rowiegar and Mid Howe. Some fields had to be omitted because the device could not drive across their steep slopes and rocky ground. Several new anthropogenic anomalies and structures can be observed in the imagery. In the SE field of the surveyed area a possible new mound is most striking. A circular structure, 9.5m in diameter, of high magnetic susceptibility was evident about 250m NW of the mound. In the N further settlement structures surrounding North Howe Broch have been revealed. Track-like linear structures follow downhill from the N towards the SW, and E of these, and NW of North Howe several possible settlement structures are evident. Three circular roundhouse structures are located 20m N of the broch, their diameter is between 8.5 and 11m. Immediately W of North Howe a concentration of stone might result from broch related debris, but could also reveal remains of further building activity in this location. Further investigations will hopefully reveal details about the chronology and function of some of the anomaly clusters.

The Neolithic settlement of Rinyo is positioned in a valley between Faraclet Head and Kierfea Hill in the N of Rousay. During the survey, 50.5ha of gradiometer data were captured from fields surrounding Bigland and Houseby Farms in the S of the valley. The NW area of the survey showed traces of ploughing and some field boundaries. Apart from the interior structuring of Rinyo settlement site several new features have been identified in the adjacent fields to the N and S. A circular to oval structure of 20 – 22m in diameter is positioned about 40m NW of Rinyo's extent. Inside the settlement, internal details can be identified, and the magnetic susceptibility of the structure is relatively high with values up to 18.0 nT. In the field SE of Rinyo, a cluster of several structures is evident. Several circular and semi-circular features with diameters between 12 – 22m, as well as linear anomalies, signify a focus of settlement activity. About 100m SE of the modern Bigland Farm a further nucleus of settlement or burial activity of uncertain date and type was found. A linear structure in the SW of the surveyed area could result from an igneous dyke. Several anthropogenic anomalies can be found around the dyke. Two fields were surveyed N of Burrian Broch on the S coast of Rousay. Part of the broch has eroded into the sea and the part facing the coast was not accessible with the 3m rig. The N part of the cavity wall and the possible outer boundary ditch are visible in the magnetometry data. The fields contain dipole anomalies, probably resulting from modern metal waste. Some faint traces of rig and furrow-like features can be detected in the areas close to the coast. Several linear features of higher magnetic susceptibility may also be of modern origin (heavily burnt material was visible on the ground surface).

This report highlights some of the larger structures brought to light with the surveys. Many



further features, visible of in the imagery, are still undergoing analysis, and more complementary work is needed to further identify their function and chronology, and their meaning in the composite usage of the land.

Gradiometer survey was predominantly conducted with a GPS-supported 14-sensor fluxgate GM650B gradiometer device mounted on a quad-drawn 3m wide rig. At Westside, the fields close to the sea were not accessible with the large rig. These were surveyed with a 2m rig mounted with five sensors with a similar technical configuration to the larger one. The works were carried out in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute, Orkney College, County Archaeologist Julie Gibson, Orkney Islands Council, the National Museum of Scotland and University College Dublin.

All survey results are reported to Historic Environment Scotland and the Rousay Community Funder: RGK

Ruth Beusing and Knut Rassmann – Römisch-Germanische Kommission, Frankfurt (RGK) of the German Archaeological Institut (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) (Source DES Volume 19)

#### Excavation (25 June 2018 - 3 August 2018)

HY 37531 29661 The 25 June – 3 August 2018 season saw the completion of the excavation of the Pictish Building (Structure 3) and the start of a new phase of the project with the excavation of the suspected chambered cairn forming the Knowe of Swandro. The Pictish building floor had been identified in 2017 and revealed significant metalworking debris suggesting both iron and copper working, with spheroidal slag and hammer scale suggestive of sophisticated blacksmithing including fire welding. The presence of a number of crucible fragments strongly pointed to the structure having been used for copper alloy working. Subsequent analysis of the crucible fragments by Dr Gerry McDonnell using X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) indicated that the crucible fragments were used to cast an alloy with a high zinc composition forming a brass rather than a bronze (with a higher tin content in the alloy). In the summer of 2018 Dr McDonnell supervised the excavation and sampling of the floor of the Pictish building. The floor was carbon rich and the hearth demonstrated two phases of use. In between the upper hearth fragment and the lower primary hearth a further fragment of crucible was found. The excavation revealed further evidence of metalworking, with crucible fragments and the remains of several fragments of fired clay from a tuyère, which would have protected the snout of the bellows. Magnetic susceptibility and XRF survey of the floor, together with the in situ remains of the furnishings of the building, have provided a unique understanding of the use of space within the structure.

The building was clearly semi-subterranean in nature, with a shallow set of steps leading into a passage flanked on the left hand side by the wall of the structure and by a large orthostatic slab on the opposing side. A door would have opened into Structure 3, the doorway being defined by an in situ threshold stone and door pivot. Anyone entering the building would have to enter to the left (clockwise) of the hearth and its back-slab that would have protected the hearth from drafts. The strongest signatures of copper working determined by the detailed XRF analysis of the floor surface indicated the working position of the smith would have been on the left hand side of hearth, facing the doorway and hearth back-slab and in front of two beach cobbles set into the floor. These cobbles, one an elongated block and the other smaller and squarer in shape, had clear percussion damage indicating their use as anvils. Whilst preparing to illustrate the larger cobble, archaeological illustrator Mr Alan Braby noted carbon staining appearing to represent the finger or hand marks of the smith. McDonnell's survey of the floor and the presence of the tuyère fragments suggest the bellows were located on the opposite (right hand) side of the hearth. A cupboard or aumbry constructed within the wall of building would have been to the left of the smith and may have been used either as storage or the location of a lamp. The layout and sophisticated design of the building strongly suggests that this was a purpose-built smithy. The hearth furnishings seem to have been constructed as part of the building's primary usage. The semi-subterranean nature of the building and the location of the doorway formed an effective means of reducing natural light. Added to this, the doorway presented clear evidence of two means of barring the door, one from the inside, further reducing any light incursion. The observation of flame colour by the smith would have been critical to enable them to gauge metal temperature. It is worth noting that a second bar hole was present, indicating that the door could also be secured from the outside. This metalworking building (Structure 3) had been constructed within two parallel single-faced stone walls that had in previous years suggested the presence of an earlier building. Further investigation in 2018 suggested that this earlier stonework actually represented the stone



revetments of a ditch. The fill of this suspected ditch below the ash and carbon-rich floors of the Pictish smithy had been compromised by the tidal action of the sea, consisting of vacuous rubble with lenses of beach sand. A small fragment of plastic was observed within this material, but the layers of floor above this fill were intact and undamaged. The pressure of the sea from tidal and storm surges appears to have horizontally penetrated the archaeology below Structure 3, removing finer archaeological sediments. This erosive action has affected the walling of Structure 3 (the Pictish smithy) on the seaward side and seems to be responsible for the subsidence of the wall into the top of the infilled ditch.

This year, excavation commenced on a new area encompassing the central zone of the Neolithic chambered cairn. The cairn was revealed in previous investigations in 2012 and 2015 as a series of casement walls and packed core under the boulder beach around the high tide line. The new area included the entrance first identified in 2016 and further defined in 2017; it also took in a new area on the landward side of the entrance. Excavation revealed a complex sequence in contrast to the eroded sequence investigated under the boulder beach in 2012 and 2015. Excavation in 2018 within this landward zone indicated a structural sequence that was secondary to the monumental structure interpreted as being the Neolithic Passage Grave. This structural sequence consisted of a roundhouse form (Structure 6) which had been inserted into the monumental structure, re-using and extending the original entrance passage. The structure was represented by an inner-faced wall with a difference in alignment to the earlier casement walling. This roundhouse appears to have had a complicated History of collapse, rebuilding and use, being subdivided by later structural elements characteristic of the late Iron Age or Pictish period. This late phase was represented by a dividing wall and orthostatic alignment forming a large inner cell on the landward side of the passage (Structure 5) with a doorway that had later been blocked by stone walling. The preservation in this area suggested a complex sequence of modification, with a deep stratigraphic sequence surviving. An infill of mixed midden material, rich in animal bone and pottery, was recorded inside this cell whilst outside the wall and blocked doorway there was evidence of more than one structural collapse of the roundhouse, the latest involving the fall of very large orthostats, one of which lay against the blocked doorway. Several of these elements suggested the collapse of corbelled roofing structures. This new exposure of the inner end of the passage provided evidence of structural collapse. Two long and substantial stone slabs just under 2m in length were found lying along the axis of the passage and partly inside the roundhouse. These stones might represent either a pair of fallen orthostats or uprights, or possibly lintels associated with the roofing of the passage. If these stones were set upright they would coincide with a change in width and orientation of the passage at the point where the secondary Iron Age roundhouse was inserted. The removal of the boulder beach overburden of the area of cairn previously assessed was deeper than expected and indicated that the archaeology here had been badly truncated by the sea. The area at the top of the boulder beach which had been exposed in 2015 had suffered greatly in the intervening years despite the archaeology being covered; much of the finer sediments had been washed out, the survival of archaeological sediment-based deposits was poor and in contrast to the material on the landward side. The suction of the finer deposits caused by the receding tide seems to be the main cause of this. This effect seems consistent with the evidence for Structure 3 discussed above. Very little of the tertiary Pictish deposits survived the aggressive action of the sea in this zone.

Within this eroded zone of the cairn a stone cist was identified. The fill of the cist had been completely scoured out by wave action and entirely replaced by beach deposit. However, a fragment of steatite vessel was found on the surface of the archaeological deposits just below the cist. This fragment appears to be Bronze Age rather than Norse in character and suggests the possibility of a Bronze Age use of the cairn. Adjacent to this cist the top of a corbelled cell was identified, possibly representing part of a side chamber to the cairn. This feature was recorded and carefully packed and will be fully investigated next year.

Outside the wall of the cairn, a corridor-like structure had been identified in 2017. This structure was built against the outer wall face with several in situ lintels set upon two scarcement-like ledges. The extended excavation area allowed more of this structure to be investigated. The excavation revealed further parts of this corridor, which appears to have at least two major phases of construction with its secondary and latest use dating to the Pictish period. A poorly-constructed single-faced wall formed the end of this secondary passage. This single-faced wall stratigraphically sealed an earlier and better-constructed corbelled wall associated with the ledges and lintels. The backing material to both of these end walls was composed of midden, including a layer rich in limpets and pottery. Two sequences of backing material corresponding to the two phases were identified. The lower fill sealed the top of the



corbelled end to the lintelled corridor. A series of slabs at a 60-70° angle appeared to represent structural elements consistent with the collapse of a corbelled roof; they sealed the material backing the secondary and poorly-constructed single-faced wall.

The opposing long wall of the secondary use of this corridor was formed by several large orthostats. These orthostats were backed by a mixed midden-like infill, which was contained by a much earlier well-constructed wall of a distinctly different build. This earlier wall had been truncated by the construction of Structure 4, a Pictish building partly excavated in 2015 during the evaluation of the eroded beach section. Excavation of Structures 5 and 6 and the primary cairn will continue in 2019.

Archive and report: Orkney HER and NRHE (intended). Digital records: ADS (intended) Funder: Historic Environment Scotland, Swandro Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford and Orkney Archaeological Society JM Bond and SJ Dockrill – University of Bradford (Source DES Volume 19)

#### Geophysical Survey (June 2019)

HY 37531 29661 A geophysical survey around the Knowe of Swandro (Canmore ID: 2169) was carried out to assist and help with the interpretation of the on-going excavations at the site. The surveys were carried out at the start of the 2019 excavation season and build upon previous surveys carried out in the area (DES 2010, 123–4; DES 2011, 136–7; DES 2012, 135–6; DES 2013, 141–2; DES 2014, 149; DES 2015, 131–2; DES 2016, 131–2; DES 2017, 146–7; Full excavation: DES 2018, 149–51). The current surveys took place June to August 2019, and were carried out on the landward side of the site, which currently is not affected by the effects of erosion as is the rest of the site, but the proximity to the sea has meant the salinity of the soil has impacted the depth at which some techniques used could 'see'. Aware of this potential problem from the start, fieldwork was carried out using a number of integrated geophysical survey techniques including detailed earth resistance survey (Geoscan Research Twin-Probe), electromagnetic survey (GF Instruments CMD-Mini-Explorer), Ground Penetrating Radar (Mala X3M) and Electrical Tomography (ZZGeo FlashRES64). These techniques allow data to be collected at multiple depths to allow for a better understanding of this multi-phase/multi period site.

The earth resistance data was collected using the twin probe array, and collected data using Geoscan Research's RM-85 electrical resistance meter. Data was collected over the same grid as used for all the other surveys. Within the  $20 \times 20 \text{m}$  data grids data were collected at  $1 \times 0.5 \text{m}$  intervals and at three different depths (0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 m separation).

Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) was collected on the Knowe of Swandro in parallel traverses with their positions, where recorded, in x,y and height to allow the data to be topographically corrected. ERT is a technique that allows a vertical section through the ground to be investigated. The instrument used was a multi-channel, free-configuration system. The FlashRes64 system is not constrained by any one electrode array and undertakes a resistivity imaging survey by recording as many combinations of potential measurements as possible simultaneously, from a set pair of current electrodes which change position at each measurement station.

The ERT was used to build pseudo-sections (PS) along lines with a probe distance of 0.25m. These PS are then converted from 'measured' to 'model' resistivity via an inversion system which produces interpretable sections.

The Electromagnetic data was collected using CMD Mini-Explorer produced by GF Instruments. The instrument generates an EM signal which in turn generates new signals from the subsurface which are then measured.

The ground penetrating radar (GPR) was collected using a wheeled cart with an encoder wheel to position the GPR data along the traverses, the data was collected using a 250MHz antenna. All the geophysical survey grids and the control used for the excavation have been located onto the Ordinance Survey Grid (OS) using OSTN15 via Trimble's VRS Now network using Trimble R10 GPS and Lecia Total Station.

The data collected from the GPR proved to be ambiguous. Although showing archaeology concentrated around the physical mound of the Knowe of Swandro, a true reflection of depth at present is difficult to determine due to the problems associated with saline water. The traverses using the ERT were extremely successful, indicating the depth and extent of the archaeology, and confirming the focus of settlement on the coastal strip. More importantly, in terms of future management and understanding, it indicated the presence of water within the lower archaeological contexts.



The detailed earth resistance survey indicated that the large roundhouse forming the main component of the Knowe of Swandro was surrounded by subsidiary buildings suggesting a nucleated village.

Archive: NRHE and Orkney HER (intended)

Funder: Historic Environment Scotland, Swandro-Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, Orkney Archaeological Society

C Gaffney and T Sparrow - School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, University of

Bradford

(Source: DES Vol 20)

#### Excavation (June 2019 - August 2019)

HY 37531 29661 Excavation, in June to August 2019, concentrated on the remains of the large Iron Age roundhouse (Structure 6; Canmore ID: 2169) and the adjacent area to the SE containing Structure 4, a Pictish building, and Structure 1. The monumentality of the roundhouse and its focal position within the settlement parallels the positioning of many Orcadian broch sites such as the near-by broch of Midhowe. However, the construction of Structure 6, although monumental in proportion, did not provide evidence of standard broch architecture.

Investigation of the passageway into Structure 6 showed at least two structural phases. A cladding wall thickening the base of the original wall seems to have been added and associated with this second phase of construction. Material contained in the core infill between this secondary wall and an earlier wall face, forming the cladding on the seaward arc of the roundhouse, returned an AMS radiocarbon date of 732–401cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC-88535 (GU52307)). Material stratigraphically later than this cladding and sealed by a wall butting the cladding returned an Early Iron Age AMS radiocarbon date of 760–430 cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC-88540 (GU52309)). A third date was obtained from the material butting the later wall and stratigraphically above SUERC-88540. This returned a date of 788–541cal BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC-88536 (GU52308)). These dates indicate that this building represents a monumental Early Iron Age roundhouse with evidence of continuity into the 1st millennium AD.

The southern area of the roundhouse under the boulder beach had been severely affected by the sea. Here, much of the finer grained material forming the depositional sequence had been removed by tidal action. Survival was better on the landward side. However, in the central zone of the building a major collapse event was evident from the position of slumped or fallen structural orthostats. The structure of this collapse was three-dimensionally recorded by photogrammetry and laser imaging. Evidence for several truncated hearth forms were identified and sampled for archaeomagnetic dating.

The northern circuit of the building provided a better insight into the archaeological complexity and potential of the site as it has not yet been exposed to the sea and the effects of tidal action. Part of the northern arc of the roundhouse (Structure 6) had been partitioned off from the seaward side by the construction of a medial wall in alignment with the northern wall of the entrance passage to form a smaller structure (Structure 5). An entrance led into this space which was formed between the north-eastern arc of the inner wall of Structure 6 and the medial wall which bisected the centre of the roundhouse. An upper floor surface was found within Structure 5 containing evidence for several hearths. A long-handled weaving comb and two Roman glass bottle fragments, whose forms suggest a 1st to early 2nd-century AD date, were found at this level. The doorway had subsequently been blocked and the space formed by Structure 5 was infilled with a complex sequence of midden material rich in bone, some articulated, and burnt stone.

A short passage to the NE of the entrance had been constructed against the outer wall face of the large roundhouse (Structure 6). A wall had been constructed against the outer roundhouse wall to form a scarcement-like ledge to support lintels for the roof. The lintels, several of which were still in situ, spanned the roof to an opposing wall constructed against a large orthostat. This opposing wall incorporated a cell whose back was formed by the orthostat. The entrance to this passage had been blocked with a later wall continuing the alignment of the entrance passage. Excavation in 2018 demonstrated that there had been an upper passage using the lintels as a floor.

Structure 1, an Iron Age building dating to the 1st centuries BC/AD, was re-investigated in 2019. This building contained evidence for a stone-built oven constructed against the circumferential wall of the building and an adjacent hearth. The hearth was sampled in 2019 for archaeomagnetic dating. Structure 1 had been badly truncated by the sea and the severity of



erosion of the deposits on the area to the seaward side of this structure, indicated the need to sample the surviving stratigraphic sequence which pre-dated Structure 1 while these deposits remained in situ. The deposits were excavated stratigraphically and fully sampled for environmental remains and for dating material. The sequence produced Early Iron Age pottery containing temper-rich rim sherds with a flat splayed rim form, and a perforated seal tooth interpreted as a pendant.

The entrance to Structure 1 to the NW appeared to lead into a corridor that would have linked this building to the main entrance of the large roundhouse, Structure 6. This passage was in part overlain by the southern walling of the Pictish building, Structure 4.

Structure 4 appears to be a Late Iron Age agricultural building, stratigraphically post-dating Structure 1. The building was characterised by a stone-flagged floor and a hearth constructed within the northern wall, suggestive of a threshing or processing floor and corn dryer. Archaeomagnetic dating samples and samples of carbon-rich ash were taken from the bowl of the hearth.

An area to the NE of this building was investigated and remains of midden material with bands of winkle shell not seen elsewhere within the Iron Age deposits at the site was discovered. A decorated spindle whorl made from the femoral head sawn from a cattle femur and part of a decorated bone needle case were recovered from the midden. This midden and its characteristics suggest a Late Pictish / Viking date. The midden sealed the rubble fill of another building, Structure 7. The building, as with other structural elements within this north-eastern section of the site, showed evidence of structural collapse. The collapse appears to have taken place in a short period of time and might be associated with human action rather than natural abandonment processes. The rubble infill contained some structural integrity, again suggestive of an anthropogenic origin. The walls containing this rubble infill strongly suggested that corbelling was present and that the surviving building was potentially of some height. Archive: Orkney HER, NRHE, Digital records will be deposited with ADS. Artefacts to be deposited with the Orkney Museum (if agreed by the Treasure Trove Unit) Funder: HES, Swandro-Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, Orkney Islands Council, University of

JM Bond and SJ Dockrill–School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, University of Bradford (Source: DES Vol 20)

Site Number 56

Site Name Knowe of Yesko, barrows and enclosure 250m NNE of Mirbister

Bradford, Orkney Archaeological Society

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; enclosed cremation cemetery; enclosure (ritual or funer

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1311

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331238

Northing 1020830

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

The monument consists of a group of three Bronze Age burial monuments. Two are round

barrows and the third is an enclosure, probably a cremation cemetery.

The monument is situated on a W-sloping hillside just over 75m above sea-level. The Knowe of Yesko itself is a large barrow, an earthen burial mound, about 14m in diameter and standing just under 2m high. It has been dug into, but much of its structure appears to be intact. Immediately adjacent to it is a second barrow, about 7m in diameter and only 0.4m high. 65m to the N of Knowe of Yesko is a circular enclosure formed by a stony bank, which contains many upright stones but also shows stretches of coursed drystone walling. It is 28m in overall diameter, measured across the enclosure bank, a slight external ditch and an even more slight external bank, which is only intermittently visible. The interior is raised slightly above the



exterior, especially towards the N side.

The area to be scheduled is an irregular quadrilateral, bounded on the N and E by a modern fence, which is excluded from scheduling. It measures 25m on the N side, 155m on the E, 115m on the SW and 95m on the NW, to include both barrows, the enclosure and an area around and between them in which further features, and evidence relating to the construction and use of the visible remains, is likely to survive. This area is shown in red on the accompanying map.

Site Number 57

Site Name Knowes of Cuean, mounds 225m N of Sunnybrae

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1312

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330243

Northing 1022878

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of up to four barrows dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as low, roughly circular, turf-covered earthen mounds situated at the intersection of three fields. The largest mound lies to the N: it measures 12.7m in diameter and survives to a height of 0.6m. The remains of another probable barrow lie immediately to the SE, marked by a low mound measuring 5m in diameter with a 2m-wide hollow at its centre. A third mound stands 20m to the SW, in the corner of the adjacent field, and measures 6.6m in diameter. Some 5m to its W are the remains of a fourth barrow, which is around 8m in diameter and stands 0.4m in height with a depression in the centre. Partial excavation of one of the barrows identified a surrounding kerb and recovered a broken ard share. The barrow cemetery at Knowes of Cuean lies at about 75m OD. The barrows occupy a broad ridge extending SE from Greeny Hill, with views towards the Loch of Sabiston 1km to the SW. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to understanding of burial and funerary practices in Bronze Age Orkney. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. The Knowes of Cuean are the best preserved surviving element of what was originally a larger barrow cemetery in this area, comprising some 17 barrows. They retain the potential to contain human remains and associated features: for instance, excavation of barrows within the cemetery at Sunnybrae, 220m to the SSW, indicated the presence of mortuary structures, as well as burials. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The significance of the surviving barrows at Knowes of Cuean is enhanced by their association with other barrows nearby and their place in the wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located N of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.



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RCAHMS records the monument as HY32SW 3.

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Site Number 58

Site Name Knowes of Lingro, burial mounds 110m WNW of Waverley

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1314

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328425

Northing 1029010

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of three barrows dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as low, roughly circular, turf-covered earthen mounds. The two northernmost mounds measure approximately 10m and 14m in diameter and stand 1m high. The third mound, which lies SE (downslope) of the northern pair, is approximately 10.5m in diameter and stands almost 1m high. This mound has been disturbed previously and the remains of a cist are partly exposed. The Knowes of Lingro are located within pasture land at about 65m OD, with views towards Costa Hill to the NE and Abune-the-Hill and Hundland Hill to the S. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Despite the plough erosion, the mounds survive to a marked degree. By analogy with other excavated barrow sites in Orkney, these mounds have high potential to reveal further evidence for burials and funerary practice. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows provide evidence for significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age. They are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed



to stone-built cairns. The significance of the small cemetery at Knowes of Lingro is enhanced by its proximity to other barrows, and its place in the wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located around the Lochs of Swannay, Hundland and Boardhouse. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 21.

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Site Number 59

Site Name Knowes of Trinnawin, mounds 830m and 560m SE of Upper Bigging

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1315

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 333483

Northing 1018935

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of six barrows dating probably from the Bronze Age (between around 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as two groups of low, roughly circular, turf-covered mounds. The NW group originally comprised at least two barrows, but only one is visible today, measuring about 20m in diameter and standing 0.7m high. This barrow was partly excavated in 1922 and contained a stone-lined pit and a cist without a cover stone. The SE group comprises five barrows, four of them arranged in a row aligned W-E, with an outlier 50m to the NE. One of the barrows in the row of four is notably larger than the rest, measuring 15m in diameter and standing 1.5m high. The other barrows range in diameter from approximately 6m to 9m, and in height from 0.3m to 0.5m. Four of the SE group of mounds were partly investigated in 1902-3 and found to be built primarily of earth and small stones. A short cist found in the SE side of the largest mound contained fragments of bone and ashes. A 'cavity' or pit in the adjacent mound to the E held a complete steatite urn, embedded in ash, containing burnt bones. Ash, fragments of bone and charred wood were also recorded from the other mounds examined. The monument is situated on a broad ridge at around 65m OD with excellent views towards the Loch of Harray. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this. The scheduling comprises two separate areas. The first is circular in plan, 30m in diameter, centred on the centre of the surviving barrow to the NW. The second is rectangular in plan, measuring 120m WSW-ENE by 55m transversely, to include the five barrows in the SE group.



The scheduled areas include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the construction, use and abandonment of the barrows is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences and the top 30cm of the track to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows and barrow cemeteries in Orkney, as well as changes in burial practice and society in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's prehistoric landscape. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are mainly earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. Despite minor excavations in the early 20th century, the Knowes of Trinnawin retain high potential to preserve human burials and, possibly, evidence of mortuary structures, funeral pyres and related activities, as has been discovered at similar sites elsewhere in Orkney. The significance of the surviving barrows at Knowes of Trinnawin is enhanced by their association with other barrows nearby and their place in the wider landscape. The Harray area is exceptionally rich in Bronze Age burial monuments, including an impressive barrow cemetery at Knowes o' Trotty about 1.6km to the SE, and another barrow cemetery at Hollands, about 2km to the NW. Our understanding of prehistoric ritual and burial practices in Orkney and across Scotland would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

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Towrie, S 2013, 'The Knowes o' Trotty', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/> [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 60

Site Name Knowes of Trotty, mounds S of Netherhouse, Huntscarth

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1316

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 334186

Northing 1017444

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a group of Bronze Age burial mounds.

There are twelve large mounds and several smaller ones in a band of land running N-S along



the limit of present-day agricultural cultivation. The largest of the mounds is almost 20m in diameter, the smallest of the twelve is just less than 6m in diameter. In addition, there are at least three much smaller mounds, while recent research on Bronze Age burial mounds suggests that there may be associated burials not beneath mounds. The most north-westerly of the mounds produced early Bronze Age artefacts during 19th century excavations.

The area to be scheduled is irregular on plan, but capable of ready definition using modern fence boundaries and a track as reference points. It measures a maximum of 450m from E of N to W of S, by 145m, to include all of the large and small mounds, and an area between and around them which may contain evidence relating to their construction and possibly additional burials, all as marked in red on the accompanying map. Modern fences are excluded.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as one of the finest groups of Bronze Age (perhaps Early Bronze Age) burial mounds in Scotland. It has proven archaeological potential, and has further potential, through excavation and analysis, to provide important information about prehistoric burial practices and material culture.

Site Number 61

Site Name Knowes of Yonbell, two mounds 225m and 350m NNE of Vestrafiold

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1317

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324558

Northing 1022516

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of two burial mounds dating to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The monument is visible as two upstanding, circular, turf-covered earthen mounds. The northernmost mound measures approximately 12m in diameter and survives to a height of 1m. The southernmost mound is located approximately 120m to the SSW. It is around 11m in diameter and stands 1m high and is reported to have had a stone kerb. Both mounds have been opened in antiquity: the northernmost mound contained burnt bones, and the southernmost mound a steatite urn. The monument occupies a conspicuous location on a low-lying ridge at 100m above OD with extensive views to the S: the northernmost mound would have been clearly visible on the skyline. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area comprises two circles on plan, centred on the mounds and each measuring 30m in diameter. The scheduled area includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence that crosses the northernmost mound.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary and burial practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. The mounds at Knowes of Yonbell retain their field characteristics to a marked degree and are significant examples of their type. Recent investigations of similar sites



elsewhere in Orkney have demonstrated that such mounds have the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, including, for example, the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. The significance of the Knowes of Yonbell is enhanced by their association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located around Vestra Fiold and the west coast of Orkney Mainland, which has one of the most important concentrations of such monuments in Orkney. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography Other Information

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 13.

References

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Hedges, M E 1979, 'The excavation of the Knowes of Quoyscottie, Orkney: a cemetery of the early first millenium BC', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 130-55.

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Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].

Site Number 62

Site Name

Nisthouse, burial mound 270m ENE of

Type of Site

Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1318

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329929

Northing 1026883

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burial mound or barrow dating probably to the Bronze Age (between approximately 2000 BC and 800 BC). It is visible as a roughly circular, grass-covered earthen mound, measuring approximately 13m E-W by 12m transversely and standing to a height of 1.1m. The monument is located on hill pasture land at approximately 80m above sea level, on the SW slope of Hundland Hill, overlooking the Loch of Hundland and with long views to the W and SW. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan, 24m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a post-and-wire fence crossing the SE edge of the mound to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. The burial mound retains its field characteristics to a marked degree, despite some antiquarian investigation (before 1880), which exposed a cist containing human bone and ashes. We know from recent excavations at



similar sites that these monuments normally contain important artefactual and environmental information about their construction and use. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. They provide evidence for the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The significance of this example is enhanced by its location in an area rich in burial mounds and other types of broadly contemporary monument, including some with which it is intervisible. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 19.

References

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Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

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RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 25, no 49.

Site Number 63

Site Name Easthouse, burnt mound 100m SSW of

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

**Listing No./NRHE Number** SM1333

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328946

Northing 1020595

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a burnt mound and associated remains. The core of the monument is already scheduled, but this proposal extends protection to the whole area of archaeological significance, so far as it is known.

The monument includes the remains of a burnt mound with a central area about 25m across and 1m high, and traces of what may be a bank beyond dumped rubble to its east, all spread over an area measuring more than 30m NS by over 40m EW.

This scheduling excludes all above ground parts of existing fences and gates.

The area to be scheduled comprises the burnt mound and an area around it in which remains associated with its construction and use are likely to survive. The area measures 40m NNW-SSE with its N side 5m to the north of the more northerly of a pair of parallel E-W fences, by 50m WSW-ENE with its E edge 10m W of and parallel to the fence at the W edge of the farm road, as marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a good example of a Bronze Age settlement and its associated mound of potboilers.



Site Number 64

Site Name Sandola, mound 20m SE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1342

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326394

Northing 1017916

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of a barrow dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrow survives as a circular grass-covered earthen mound, measuring approximately 9m in diameter and standing up to 1m high. This barrow is the last upstanding remnant of what was once an extensive barrow cemetery, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map. The monument is situated on relatively low-lying level ground at around 10m above sea level. It lies in the corner of a field, which has contributed to its survival, with stone walls slightly overlying its N and W sides. The monument was originally scheduled in 1939, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan, 14m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the two stone walls N and W of the barrow to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age, and the form, function and distribution of barrows. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. They provide evidence for the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The barrow at Sandola is particularly important as it is is reasonably well-preserved and is the last remnant of an extensive barrow cemetery. There is good potential for the survival of important archaeological deposits in the form of burials and associated structures. The loss of this monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the placing of such monuments within the landscape and the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistoric times.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY21NE 45.

References

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Hedges, M E 1978-80, 'Short cists recently excavated at Lower Ellibister and other locations in Orkney', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 110, 44-71.

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Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].



Site Number 65

Site Name Tafts, burnt mound 195m WSW of, Quendal, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM13433

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337128

Northing 1032495

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument comprises a well-preserved burnt mound, dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a substantial crescent-shaped grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 16m NW-SE by 12m transversely and standing up to 1m high. It is composed mainly of accumulated burnt stones and other burnt material. The crescent-shaped mound is open on its SW side, where a low depression may contain associated structures, such as a hearth and trough. The mound is situated on low-lying boggy ground, immediately E of the Burn of Tafts. It is located some 570m inland from the W coast of Rousay, at around 30m above sea level.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 40m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type and its proximity to several other substantial burnt mounds (such as the Knowe of Dale and the burnt mound at Lower Quandale, both less than 1km distant) gives it added potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References

Bibliography

Other informationRCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 8.

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Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage.

Towrie, S 2013, 'A Brief History of Orkney - The Bronze Age',

http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm.



Site Number 66

Site Name Hundland Hill, enclosure 500m NE of Nisthouse

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: enclosure (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM13451

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330071

Northing 1027127

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric enclosure dating probably to the Neolithic period or Bronze Age (between around 4000 and 1000 BC). It is clearly visible from the air on oblique aerial photographs and can be traced on the ground intermittently as a low earth bank, about 0.5m high. The enclosure is approximately 70m in external diameter, and the bank is 3-4m wide on average, though spread up to 6m wide in places. No entrance is discernible. The interior has two raised areas: in the SSW, a low mound approximately 15m in diameter abuts the enclosing bank; and in the E, a low circular mound is surmounted by an Ordnance Survey triangulation station. The monument occupies the summit of Hundland Hill at around 100m above sea level, on the isthmus between the Loch of Swannay and the Loch of Hundland, with excellent views in all directions.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 90m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the triangulation station to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of prehistoric society, specifically, the nature and function of hilltop enclosures, which are relatively rare in Orkney. The monument survives to a marked degree with its earthen bank visible on the ground for most of the circuit. Its hilltop position and the benign nature of later land-use are likely to have preserved important archaeological evidence: the discovery of cramp in the enclosing bank demonstrates this potential. The significance of the monument is enhanced by its hilltop location overlooking a landscape rich in broadly contemporary, funerary and ritual monuments. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of prehistoric enclosures would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

Site Number 67

Site Name Cumbla Newgarth, mounds, 200m NNE of Quean

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1347

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326089



Northing 1019002

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the buried remains of up to nine barrows dating probably to the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). Four of the barrows are visible as slight rises in the field; the other barrows are likely to be preserved as buried remains. The visible mounds form a tight cluster of sub-circular, low earthen mounds and are spread by ploughing to around 14m in diameter. Overall, the barrow cemetery covers an area of some 1.3ha. The monument occupies a NE-facing slope at around 25m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Harray to the SE. The monument was first scheduled in 1962, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is quadrilateral on plan, measuring 160m NW-SE by 85m N-S, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduled area excludes the post-and-wire fences which form the current field boundary.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. The cemetery at Cumbla Newgarth is notable because it contains the remains of at least nine barrows in a cluster and once formed a cemetery. Despite the plough damage, excavation elsewhere has demonstrated good levels of preservation of mortuary structures and burials, as well as the presence of pottery and stone tools, beneath and around barrows. The significance of Cumbla Newgarth is enhanced by its association with other barrow mounds and cemeteries on marginal land nearby. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows in Orkney would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY21NE 42.

References

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Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

Downes, J 1999, 'Orkney Barrows Project', Current Archaeology 165, 324-327.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 262, no 702.

Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].

Site Number 68

Site Name Mittens, two mounds 110m NE of, Swannay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1350

Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 329613



Northing 1028227

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of two earthen mounds, immediately adjacent to each other. One is easily visible as an upstanding circular mound; the other comprises the plough-truncated remains if what was once an upstanding mound. The monument was first scheduled in 1949, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present re-scheduling rectifies this.

Only the southernmost mound survives as an upstanding feature today. This roughly circular mound measures about 15m across and stands about 1m high. Now grass-covered, it appears to be composed primarily of charcoal-rich soil with some small stones. According to early reports, the mound was once encircled by a bank and/or ditch. It may have been opened in antiquity, with the consequent loss of part of its western side.

The northern mound must have been very similar originally. It now appears as a roughly circular area of raised ground, best seen in a low angled light, which is about 10m in diameter but stands omly about 0.2m high. Given its slight profile, the edge of the mound in indistinct. In 1877 a stone-lined cist containing ashes was discovered within this mound, indicating that this was a Bronze Age burial site.

In 1946 a second cist was discovered some 35m NE of the surviving upstanding mound, perhaps when the northern mound was ploughed flat. It seems likely that archaeological features associated with prehistoric burial or ritual once extended over a wide area. The area to be scheduled is circular with a diameter of 50m, centred on the southern (upstanding) mound, as indicated in red on the accompanying map. The area includes both mounds and an area around them in which evidence relating to their construction, use and related activities is likely to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the remains of two, probably associated, prehistoric burial mounds, which have the potential to provide important information about ritual practices associated with human burial in the Bronze Age. It is possible that the mounds are the focus of a wider ritual and burial landscape. Although both mounds have suffered plough damage and erosion, excavations elsewhere in Orkney have shown that much important information is likely still to survive beneath the mounds and in the ground around them.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 1.

References:

RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3V, Edinburgh, 25.

Site Number 69

Site Name Tafts of Quendale, farmstead, Rousay

Type of Site Secular: farmstead; settlement, including deserted and depopulated and townships

Listing No./NRHE Number SM13536

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 3373319

Northing 1032558



Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument comprises the well-preserved remains of a pre-Improvement period farmstead known as Tafts. The farmstead includes the remains of a roofless two-storey house, an associated barn with attached corn-drying kiln, the foundations of three byres, and two yards enclosed by stone dykes. The monument is located on an area of sloping ground at the heart of an extensive township known as Quandale (or Quendale), at about 40m above sea level, some 675m inland from the exposed W coast of Rousay.

The farmstead is aligned NE-SW with the buildings located on either side of a central track. The main house is a two-storey structure with thick stone walls, crow-stepped gables, double-splayed windows, an internal staircase and a central stone-walled passageway connecting two opposing entrances. The house measures approximately 10m NE-SW by 5m transversely. To the NE of the house is a long narrow barn measuring approximately 12m NE-SW by 4m transversely, with a corn kiln attached to its NE end. Both buildings are situated along the SE side of a near-rectangular walled yard measuring 32m NE-SW by 15m transversely. Three byre buildings are located on the other side of a central track, facing the house and barn. The byres are all approximately 6m NE-SW by 4m transversely and form the NW side of a second stone-walled yard measuring some 41m NE-SW by 33m transversely.

The farm was acquired in 1841 by George William Traill and inherited by Frederick William Traill-Burroughs, known as the 'Little General', who were responsible for clearance of the area, a practice not normally associated with Orkney. Tafts was cleared in 1846, although its corn kiln had been built only four years earlier. The house at Tafts is the only building surviving from the Quandale clearances.

The scheduled area is rectangular on plan, measuring 100m NW-SE by 75m transversely. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all modern post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved example of an intact pre-Improvement period farmstead - a rare occurrence in Orkney. The monument has high potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly to our understanding of rural vernacular buildings, society, agricultural practices and economy in Orkney from at least the 16th through to the 19th century. The farmhouse is believed to be the earliest two-storey house in Orkney and retains unusual structural characteristics which can inform our understanding of the range and construction details of pre-Improvement period vernacular buildings. There is good potential for the survival of important archaeological deposits and environmental evidence in the buildings and yards that can inform our understanding of the development and use of the farmstead, as well as of land management and agricultural practices. There are also extensive documentary sources associated with this farmstead: early tax records and property deeds and, for the 19th century, a fuller record of the clearances of the area. Tafts forms part of the Rousay clearance landscape, associated with the activities of George William Traill and Frederick William Traill-Burroughs, an infamous episode in Rousay's history. The loss of the monument would affect our ability to understand historic rural settlement and land-use, both in Orkney and further afield

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 44.

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Site Number 70

Site Name Bigbreck Cottage, burial mounds N of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1357

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326746

Northing 1025097

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of ten or more burial mounds or barrows, forming part of a barrow cemetery dating probably to the Bronze Age (between approximately 2000 and 800 BC). The mounds are all roughly circular on plan and aligned loosely NW-SE, with an outlier to the NE. The mounds vary in diameter between 4m and 12m and survive between 0.3m and 1.25m in height. Antiquarian investigations have indicated the presence of burial structures within some of the mounds and, in one case, the remains of a stone cist from which burnt bones have been recovered are visible. The mounds are located on arable land on the SE shoulder of Ravie Hill overlooking the Loch of Boardhouse to the E, at approximately 35m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduling comprises two areas: an irregular-shaped area to the E of the road and a semicircular area W of the road, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a post-and-wire fence to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Despite the impact of earlier investigations, some rabbit burrowing, animal erosion and the building of the road, at least eight of the mounds are still clearly visible, and there are less clear remains of several others. We know from recent excavations of similar sites that these monuments can contain important burial remains, including cists, human skeletal material and ashes, as well as artefactual and ecofactual information about their design, construction and use and the environmental conditions at the time of their construction and use. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. Barrows provide evidence for significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. This site was clearly a barrow cemetery and probably preserves evidence for a sequence of burials and related activities. The significance of the group is enhanced by its relationship with concentrations of other barrows nearby and other ritual and funerary monuments in the wider landscape. Our understanding of the date, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE8.

References

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Site Number 71

Site Name Newhouse, cairn 35m SE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1358

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330423

Northing 1021169

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a burial cairn dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a roughly circular turf-covered mound measuring approximately 10m in diameter and standing to a height of about 0.7m. A slight hollow in the centre of the mound indicates that it has been disturbed in antiquity and the Ordnance Survey records that a 'stone cist' was found at this site in 1890. In 1929, it was reported that the cist may have been a chamber with a paved floor, about 1.2m long by 0.9m wide and 0.9m high, which contained a small pile of bones. The monument is situated on a gentle SE-facing slope around 40m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Harray. The monument was originally scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 15m in diameter and centred on the centre of the monument. The scheduling includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has the inherent potential to contribute towards our understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of belief systems and burial practices during prehistory. Burial monuments such as this provide evidence of the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The significance of the monument is enhanced by the unusual nature of the reported chamber and by its potential for comparative study with other ritual and funerary, as well as domestic, prehistoric sites within this vicinity and across Orkney. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistoric times and the placing of burial monuments within the landscape.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the site as HY32SW 19.

References

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v,



Edinburgh, 27, no 61.

Site Number 72

Site Name Sand Geo, fishing station 240m WSW of West Howe

Type of Site Industrial: farming, food production; marine

Listing No./NRHE Number SM13600

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 322857

Northing 1023505

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a coastal fishing station dating probably from the 18th to early 20th centuries AD. The visible remains comprise three stone-built fishermens' huts, a winch shelter, seven or possibly eight boat nausts, a track and slipway to a cleared beach, and two mechanical winches. The monument occupies a steep grassy slope at the head of Sand Geo, a narrow rock-cut inlet and boulder beach, located 600m S of the bay of Mar Wick on the W coast of mainland Orkney.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The landward boundary extends up to but does not include the surrounding post-and-wire fence, to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the operation of Orkney's inshore fishery during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is an extensive and well-preserved site, notable for the survival in excellent condition of a range of features, including stone-lined boat nausts probably used for storage of sixerns or yoles. The sensitive restoration of three of the stone-built fishermens' huts has improved our ability to understand and appreciate this monument. Its significance is further enhanced by its location within the natural setting of Sand Geo, directly adjacent to the Atlantic and with ease of access to local inshore fishing grounds along the West coast of Orkney mainland. Boat nausts and fishermens' huts represent some of the few tangible surviving elements of the important and long-lived maritime culture of the Northern Isles, with its strong Scandinavian connections. Sand Geo represents a key site for enhancing our knowledge of a resource which is poorly understood and is often vulnerable to marine erosion. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the development and operation of the coastal fishery in Orkney and across the Northern Isles during the 18th and 19th centuries.

### References

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 52.

ReferencesFenton, A 1978 [reprinted 1997], The Northern Isles: Orkney and Shetland. East Linton. Tuckwell Press limited.

Hunter, J R 1992, The survey and excavation of boat nausts at Hurnip's Point, Deerness, Orkney. International Journal of Nautical Archaeology 21.2, 125-133.

Stylegar F-A and Grimm, O 2005, Boathouses in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic. International Journal of Nautical Archaeology 34.2, 253-268.



Site Number 73

Site Name Park Holm, artificial island and causeway, Loch of Swannay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: island structure, not definitely a crannog

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1362

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331266

Northing 1026934

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a small artificial island in the loch, together with a partly-submerged

causeway linking it to the shore.

The island appears to be of artificial construction, and the surface of it, although heavily overgrown, has traces of drystone walling and much rubble. It is 12m in average diameter, but its base, on the bed of the loch, is over 20m in diameter. A boulder causeway, about 50m in length, rups SW from the island to the shore of the loch.

length, runs SW from the island to the shore of the loch.

The area to be scheduled consists of a circle 30m in diameter, centred on the island, plus an area 20m wide running along the causeway, including an area of the bed of the loch in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the island and causeway may survive, as

indicated in red on the accompanying map.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a rare example, in the Northern Isles, of a type of small island structure much more frequent in the West. Its excavation may reveal important comparative information on late prehistoric domestic and defensive architecture, and its waterlogged site offers the possibility of excellent preservation of organic materials normally lock.

lost.

Site Number 74

Site Name Lower Quendal, burnt mound NE of Sinians of Cutclaws, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1363

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 336829 Northing 1031913

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved burnt mound, dating probably from the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a substantial crescent-shaped grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 15m in diameter and standing over 1m high. It is composed mainly of accumulated burnt stones and other burnt material. On the SW side of the mound is an exposed and partly excavated, stone-built structure or chamber, with burnt stone accumulated around it. The chamber is built of upright slabs and drystone walling. It is rectangular, measuring 2.6m by 3.4m transversely, and is 0.8m deep. To the SW a narrow



entrance passage, approximately 3m long, leads to the edge of the mound. A stone-built trough is located outside the chamber, next to the entrance. Inside the structure, the remains of a rectangular raised hearth are visible on the NE wall, opposite the entrance. To the NW of this is a roofed alcove or cell, recessed into the wall, which measures 0.85m by 0.7m and is 0.85m high. The mound is situated on low-lying boggy ground, immediately N of an unnamed burn. It is located some 420m inland from the W coast of Rousay, at around 20m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 30m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type, with the confirmed presence of associated structures, including a sophisticated building with a hearth and a water trough. Its proximity to several other burnt mounds in Quendal (such as those at Knowe of Dale, Tafts and Quoylonga Ness) adds to its potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, functions and development of burnt mounds and the nature of prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 7.

References

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Armit, I and Braby, A 2002, 'Excavation of a burnt mound and associated structures at Ceann nan Clachan, North Uist', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 132, 229-58.

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Topping, P 2011, Introduction to Heritage Assets: Burnt Mounds, English Heritage, UK. Towrie, S 2013, 'A Brief History of Orkney - The Bronze Age', .

Site Number 75

Site Name Knap Knowes, mounds 900m E of Sinians of Cutclaws, Quendal, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1364

Status Scheduled Monument

Description



337305 **Easting Northing** 1031628

**Parish** Rousay And Egilsay **Orkney Islands** Council

Description

The monument comprises the remains of seven barrows dating probably from the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as a series of sub-circular turfcovered earthen mounds, which vary in size from 3.5m to 9.5m in diameter and stand between 0.2m and 1.1m in height. The barrows are strung out over a distance of some 550m and may form a linear cemetery aligned roughly NNE to SSW. They occupy a ridge on sloping ground on the W coast of Rousay at around 80m above OD. The monument was first scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduling consists of four discrete parts. The southernmost is rectangular on plan, measuring 85m NNE-SSW by 35m transversely, and includes a cluster of three mounds. To the N is another rectangular area, measuring 70m NNE-SSW by 35m transversely, which includes two adjacent mounds. The remaining two areas lie further to the N and are both circular, 30m in diameter, each containing one mound. The scheduled areas include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a stone

#### Statement of National Importance

wall that bisects the southernmost scheduled area.

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular burial and funerary practices in Bronze Age Orkney. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Knap Knowes is particularly notable because it comprises an unusual linear cluster of barrows. Earlier excavations have demonstrated that the mounds contain well-preserved funerary structures and human remains, as well as artefacts, such as pottery and stone tools, which may have symbolised the connections between life and death. The significance of Knap Knowes is enhanced by its association with other barrow mounds and other types of Bronze Age site in the near vicinity, which together form a rich landscape of Bronze Age funerary and domestic sites. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows in Orkney and Rousay would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

**Bibliography** 

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RCAHMS 1982, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series, no 16, Edinburgh, 17-18. Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013].



Site Number 76

Site Name Quoynalonga Ness, burnt mound 430m SSE of, Quendal, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1367

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 336476

Northing 1031994

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved burnt mound, dating probably to the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a substantial crescent-shaped grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 18.5m NE-SW by 13m transversely and standing up to 1.5m high. It is composed mainly of accumulated burnt stones and other burnt material. The crescent-shaped mound is open on its SE side, where there is likely to be a water trough, hearth and related features. When the site was visited by RCAHMS in 1928, 'masonry and slabs on edge' were noted, but these are no longer visible. The mound is situated on low-lying boggy ground, immediately N of an unnamed stream and close to the remains of a later dam. It is located some 100m inland from the W coast of Rousay, at around 10m above sea level. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 30m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved and unusually large example of its type, with high archaeological potential. Earlier reports strongly indicate the presence of well-preserved internal structures, such as a water trough. It is one of several burnt mounds in close proximity (the others are Knowe of Dale and the burnt mounds at Tafts and Lower Quandale, all within 1km), which adds to its potential to enhance our understanding of burnt mounds as components of the wider prehistoric landscape in Orkney. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

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References

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Site Number 77

Site Name Raviehall, three mounds E of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1368/HY22SE 51
Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 325980 **Northing** 1024969

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1886

From Canmore record:

HY22SE 51 2598 2497. (HY 259 249) Tumuli (NR)

OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

Three mounds, showing no evidence that they are burial mounds or that they have ever been

excavated.

A - HY 2596 2496 - is 32ft in diameter and 5ft high, and has been somewhat spread by

cultivation on the west side.

B - HY 2597 2496 - is 23ft in diameter and 3ft high. These two mounds were probably united at one time although they are now separated by a farm-track which has disturbed their margins.

C - HY 2600 2493 - is 17ft in diameter and 2ft high.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

Three turf-covered barrows, as described by the Commission. They are situated on a

conspicuous crest. Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (NKB) 21 May 1967.

Field Visit (28 October 1993) Orkney Barrows Project

Three bowl-shaped mounds were recorded during the course of the Orkney Barrows Project.

Raviehall 1: 25960 24960. Diameter 10.0m. Height 0.7m. Raviehall 2: 25970 24960. Diameter 5.0m. Height 0.5m. Raviehall 3: 26000 24930. Diameter 4.0m. Height 0.2m. All three mounds are visible for c.750m to the SSW. Information from the Orkney Barrows Project (JD), 1993

References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 34, No.95 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 78

Site Name Reeky Knowes, burial mounds, Aiker Ness



Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1369

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 338733 Northing 1026524

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a barrow cemetery, a group of burial mounds dating probably to the Bronze Age (between approximately 2000 and 800 BC). As many as six mounds have been recorded at this location in the past. They survive today as a group of four low bowl-shaped earthen mounds, varying in diameter from 6m to 10m and standing between 0.3m and 1m high. A possible fifth burial mound occurs approximately 10m S of the main group and is visible as a low ring, approximately 8m in diameter. The monument is located on the coast, within improved grassland, overlooking Eynhallow Sound and Rousay to the NE. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of burial and funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Despite some antiquarian investigations, and the possible reuse of the site as a signal stance, this barrow cemetery survives in reasonable condition, with four mounds clearly visible today. We know from the excavation of similar sites that these monuments are likely to contain important archaeological remains, including cists, burials, artefacts and associated material, such as the remains of funerary pyres. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. Barrows provide evidence for the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in Bronze Age Orkney. The significance of this barrow cemetery is enhanced by its position on the coast overlooking Eynhallow Sound and Rousay to the NE and by its association with the wider prehistoric landscape, including similar burial mounds nearby. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

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RCAHMS records the monument as HY32NE 18.

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Site Number 79

Site Name Robie's Knowe, burnt mound 405m NNE of Howe Cottage

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: burnt mound

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1371

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 336207 Northing 1026652

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burnt mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It is visible as a roughly circular grass-covered mound, measuring approximately 10m in diameter and standing up to 1.5m high, and appears to be well-preserved. In 1967, surveyors recorded that it is composed primarily of smallish stones, including burnt stones. At least 17 earth-fast stones protrude from its E face, indicating the likely presence of associated structures. The mound is situated in rough pasture around 40m W of the Burn of Woo and 200m from the coast. It is sited on low-lying, N-facing land at around 15m above sea level and overlooks Eynhallow Sound and Rousay to the NE. The monument was originally scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 20m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive. Specifically excluded from the scheduled area are the above-ground elements of a post-and-wire fence that crosses the W side of the monument, to allow for its maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular, of prehistoric society and the dating, form and function of burnt mounds and their placing within the landscape. This is a well-preserved example of its type in an area rich in other types of prehistoric site. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the origins, function and development of burnt mounds and the nature of later prehistoric society and economy in Orkney.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY32NE 21.

References

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http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/bronzeage.htm [accessed July 2013].



Site Number 80

Site Name Loch of Sabiston, island structures

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: island structure, not definitely a crannog

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1372

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329364

Northing 1021977

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of two island structures likely to date to some time between 600 BC and AD 1400. The monument survives as two former islands in the Loch of Sabiston, with associated structures and stepping stone causeways. As a result of lowering the water level in the loch sometime before 1967, the islands now form part of the SW shore of the Loch of Sabiston in the N of Orkney Mainland.

On the larger of the two former islands (to the NE), there is an irregular oval grass-covered mound measuring 18m N-S by 13.5m transversely, which stands approximately 0.5m high and is revetted with thick, edge-set stone slabs. The footings of stone walls forming three compartments are visible on the surface of the mound. A causeway linked this island to the smaller island to the SW. The causeway was recorded in 1929 as being 5.5m wide and 32m long, but it is now mainly buried and only partly visible at the loch edge. The smaller island is visible as a semi-circular promontory around 20m in diameter. There are no visible remains on the ground surface today, but there are indications of structures (at least continuation of the causeway) on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. Stepping stones originally linked the smaller island to the loch shore and are also likely to survive as a buried feature. The monument is situated around 35m above sea level and is bounded by marshland on its E and S sides and by the loch shore to the W and N. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a bird-watching hide to allow for its maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the role and function of island structures and settlements in Orkney (this type of monument is currently less well understood in Orkney than elsewhere in northern Britain). Although the lowered water level in the Loch of Sabiston has transformed the landscape context of the site, the structures themselves are relatively undisturbed and appear to be in good condition. There is high potential for the survival of buried structural remains on and between both islands and in their vicinity. Given the prevailing wetland environment, there is also high potential for the preservation of rare organic remains which would provide important evidence for the date, function and development of the monument. The monument's significance is enhanced by its potential relationship with other likely island structures or crannogs in the nearby lochs of Isbister and Banks. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the nature of Iron Age and medieval society, economy and social hierarchy, both in Orkney and across Scotland as a whole.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS record the site as HY22SE 10.

References

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Scotland 47, 257-302.

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Laureanti, M 2012, Crannogs as cultural soil artefacts? An approach to the study of crannogs: Loch of Isbister, mainland Orkney. Masters dissertation University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney College. Copy available at

http://www.academia.edu/1520083/Crannogs\_as\_cultural\_soil\_artifacts\_Loch\_of\_Isbister\_Ork ney Mainland (accessed November 2013)

RCAHMS, 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 22, no 32.

Site Number 81

Site Name Saevar Howe, mound 370m SSW of Linkshouse

Type of Site Ecclesiastical: burial ground, cemetery, graveyard, Secular: Viking settlement, Norse settlement;

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1373

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324604 Northing 1026994

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a substantial mound comprising the accumulated remains of a series of settlements, a long-cist cemetery and related activities, dating mainly to the Pictish and Norse periods (between around 500 and 1200 AD). The mound measures approximately 75m in diameter and stands up to 4.5m high. It is irregular in shape with a depression in the central area. The mound has been affected by coastal erosion along its NE side. Previous archaeological investigations, both in antiquity and more recently, have confirmed the presence of significant structural remains within the mound and recovered a range of fine artefacts, as well as human and animal skeletal material. The mound is situated at the S end of Birsay Bay, at about 14m above sea level, on the NW coast of Orkney Mainland. The monument was originally scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 120m in diameter, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular Pictish and Norse settlement, material culture, society, economy and religion. The presence of buildings, artefacts and burials representing at least three major phases of use can enhance our understanding of the processes of cultural interaction during the interface between the Pictish and Norse periods in Orkney, as well as the development of Christianity before and during the Norse period. Previous archaeological investigations of the mound have confirmed the presence of significant structural and artefactual remains, and recent geophysical and topographical surveys have demonstrated its continuing high archaeological potential. This potential is enhanced by the location of this settlement mound in an area around the NW coast of Orkney Mainland which is exceptionally rich in Pictish and Norse sites, including on the Brough of Birsay. The loss of this



monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand changes in settlement, land-use and economy in the Pictish and Norse periods in Orkney.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NW 5.

References

Bourke, C, 1984, 'The hand-bells of the early Scottish church', in Proc Soc Antiq Scot 113, 467. Farrer, J, 1865, 'Account of the discoveries of the Knowe of Saverough', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 5, 9-12

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Griffiths, D, Harrison, J and Athanson, M, 2012, 'Birsay-Skaill Landscape Archaeology Project, Orkney: Phase XIII (Skaill Bay/Snusgar 2011); Phase XIV (Saevar Howe Survey 2011)', Data Structure Report 2011-12 (unpubl rep), University of Oxford.

Hedges, J W, 1983, 'Trial excavations on Pictish and Viking settlements at Saevar Howe, Birsay, Orkney', Glasgow Archaeol Jour 10, 73-124. RCAHMS, 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 23, no 40.

Site Number 82

Site Name Stanerandy, mound and two standing stones 100m SSE of Little Favel

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic); st

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1389

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326747

Northing 1027619

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

The monument is the remains of a burial mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC) and two standing stones. The monument is visible as a mainly grass-covered earthen mound, measuring up to 12m NW-SE by 4m transversely and standing approximately 0.9m high. On top of the mound are two earthfast standing stones, around 1.5m apart with their major axes lying NE-SW. The NW stone stands approximately 1.2m high and is 65cm wide at its base, with a portion broken from the SE face. The SE stone stands 0.6m high, but part of the top of the stone has broken off and lies on the ground on the NE corner of the mound. A scatter of loose stones across the mound is probably the result of field clearance. The monument is located at around 70m above sea level, on the lip of a steep section of the SW-facing slope of a hill overlooking Loch of Boardhouse 1km to the SW. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan and measures 20m in diameter. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary and ritual practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place



during this period. The Stanerandy barrow has been diminished by ploughing, but was probably circular originally and of larger than average size. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney demonstrates that the site has high potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, such as the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures, both within and around the mound. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The importance of Stanerandy is enhanced by the erection of two standing stones on top of the mound, probably at a later date, and by its association with a wider landscape of Neolithic and Bronze Age burial monuments located N of Loch of Boardhouse in Orkney Mainland. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of prehistoric burial monuments would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE15.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy.

Unpublished report to Historic Scotland. ARCUS, University of Sheffield.

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 22, no 35.

Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].

Site Number 83

Site Name Queena, two mounds SSW of, Abune-the-Hill

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1405/HY22NE 23
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327764

Northing 1027833

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1777

From Canmore redord:

HY22NE 23 2776 2783. (HY 2775 2784) Tumulus (NR) O.S.6"map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

Two mounds, 36 ft in diameter and 5 ft 6 ins high and 22 ft in diameter and 18 ins high. The larger has been trenched but there is no record of any finds other than a local belief that an urn in poor condition was found. Flint arrowheads and a flint axe have been found in the immediate vicinity.

RCAHMS 1946.

Two barrows, as described by the Commission.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS(NKB) 30 May 1967.

'The Orkney Herald' in 1909 reports the discovery of a stone axe and hammer, which were found in the structure.



M Howe 2006

Field Visit (25 March 1993) Orkney Barrows Project

These bowl-shaped mounds were visited during the Orkney Barrows Project.

Queena 1: Diameter 13.0m. Height 1.2m. Queena 2: Diameter 6.0m. Height 0.2m.

Both mounds are visible from the SE for 300m and probably E to the burn for 1km.

Information from the Orkney Barrows Project (JD), 1993

#### Orkney Smr Note

Listed as mounds about 250 yards SW of Quinni, about a quarter of a mile ENE of group described in (OR 43), are another two mounds. One of them is a finely shaped tumulus, 36ft diameter by 5.5ft high. An attempt has at sometime been made to examine it, for a deep trench, 4 or 5ft wide but now filled in, has been cut right through it from E to W. Arrowheads of flint and a flint axe have been picked up in the immediate neighbourhood. Local gosssip has it that the only find was an urn in poor condition. The second mound, which is a few yards to the SW of the first, is smaller, being only about 22ft in diameter and not more than 18in high.

Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

#### References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 24, No.44 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

The Orkney Herald. (1909) The Orkney Herald, July 20 1909, Orkney Herald.

Site Number 83

Site Name Kingshouse, mounds 390m NE of and 470m NNE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1392

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331729

Northing 1019782

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of three mounds, interpreted as burial mounds or barrows dating probably from the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). The three turf-covered barrows are made of earth and lie in a row aligned roughly NW-SE. The barrow to the NW measures 13m in diameter and stands up to 1.2m high; a hollow, most likely from a previous excavation, is visible on its ESE side. The second barrow lies about 130m to the SE: it measures 12m in diameter and stands to around 0.7m. The third barrow is situated some 90m to the SE: this is the largest surviving barrow in the group, measuring 19m in diameter and standing 1m high. A steatite vessel is recorded as having been found in one of the mounds in 1890. The barrows sit on a SW-facing slope at about 50m above sea level, overlooking the Loch of Bosquoy some 1450m to the SW. The monument was first scheduled in 1949, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is three circles on plan, centred on the three barrows, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying man.

the accompanying map.



Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Despite minor excavations in the late 19th century, the barrows at Kingshouse retain high potential to preserve human burials and associated evidence, such as mortuary structures, funeral pyres and related activities, as has been discovered at similar sites elsewhere in Orkney. Orkney's Bronze Age barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are mainly earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. They provide evidence for the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The significance of the surviving barrows at Kingshouse is enhanced by their association with other barrows nearby and their place in the wider prehistoric landscape. The Harray area is exceptionally rich in Bronze Age burial monuments, including an impressive barrow cemetery at Knowes of Trinnawin. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows in Orkney would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY31NW 31

References

Ashmore, P J 2003, 'Orkney burials in the first millennium AD'. In Downes, J and Ritchie, A (eds) 2003, Sea Change: Orkney and Northern Europe in the Later Iron Age, Balgavies, 35.

Downes, J 1994, 'Excavation of a Bronze Age burial at Mousland, Stromness, Orkney', Proc Soc Antig Scot 124, 151.

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

Hedges, M E 1979, 'The excavation of the Knowes of Quoyscottie, Orkney: a cemetery of the early first millenium BC', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 108, 130-55.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 28, no 66.

Towrie, S 2013, 'The Knowes o' Trotty', http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 84

Stoney Holm, crannog, Loch of Swanney

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: crannog

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1394/HY32NW 6
Status Scheduled Monument

**Easting** 331132 **Northing** 1027307

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Caanmore ID: 2224

From Canmore redord:

HY32NW 6 3113 2731.

(HY 3112 2731) A rectangular structure, measuring some 37 ft by 23 ft, with its major axis lying slightly north of east and south of west, has occupied almost the whole of the available area on



the island of Stoney Holm. It is now reduced to its foundations. At the SE corner of the lowest course of masonry is visible, but elsewhere the outline is obscure and the wall-thickness cannot be determined. The island is not connected to the shore by a causeway, but can easily be reached by wading.

**RCAHMS 1946.** 

Stoney Holm is generally as described by the Commission, except that vegetation and tumble now obscure the structure so that only a short stretch of the SE wall is visible. Unable to classify.

Visited by OS (NKB) 4 June 1967.

#### Orkney Smr Note (July 1984)

As discribed, but the central feature is just a shapeless overgrown heap with many loose stones, rising from a flat, seemingly natural islet amid shallow water. Only at the SE corner of the mound is a masonry wall face visible. It is a single course wall face, 3 stones long, the stones being massive in size, but there is no definite corner. All along the shore between HY3112 2731 and HY3127 2695 (OR 1575) is a step or notch some 0.7m - 0.8m high, apparently indicating an older higher water level.

Information from Orkney SMR (RGL) July 1984.

#### References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 20, No.27 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 85

Site Name Hillhead, three burial mounds 430m ENE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1397

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327479

Northing 1027696

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of three burial mounds or barrows dating probably to the Bronze Age (between 2000 and 800 BC). The barrows are visible as a group of three, low, roughly circular, turf-covered mounds, sited in close proximity to each other in a curving alignment. The westernmost barrow is around 8m in diameter and stands only 0.1m high; the middle barrow is 10m in diameter and stands around 0.6m high; and the easternmost is 9m in diameter and stands 0.3m high. Several large stones on and adjacent to the middle mound may derive from burial structures, such as a cist. The mounds are located in improved grassland on the S shoulder of a hill overlooking Loch of Boardhouse, at approximately 60m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is an irregular oval shape to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence to the E to allow for its maintenance.

Statement of National Importance



The monument is of national importance because of its potential to add to our understanding of burial and funerary practices in Bronze Age Orkney. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. Despite some disturbance, the Hillhead barrows are notable as a small group of associated burial mounds which are likely to preserve a development sequence. Excavation at similar sites elsewhere in Orkney has demonstrated good levels of preservation of important evidence, including cists and other structures, human skeletal or cremated remains, and evidence of associated activities, for example, grave goods and ash from funerary pyres. The buried remains can also provide information about the dating, construction and use of Orkney barrows and the nature of the local landscape and environment when they were built and in use. The significance of this group is enhanced by its relationship with concentrations of nearby barrows and other ritual and funerary monuments in the wider landscape. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Orkney's Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE7.

References

Ashmore, P J 2003, 'Orkney burials in the first millennium AD'. In Downes, J and Ritchie, A (eds) 2003, Sea Change: Orkney and Northern Europe in the Later Iron Age, Balgavies: Angus, 35. Downes, J 1994, 'Excavation of a Bronze Age burial at Mousland, Stromness, Orkney', Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 124, 151.

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology, 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 24, no 43.

Site Number 86

Site Name Summerfield, three mounds 470m WNW of, Greeny

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1400

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327678

Northing 1022871

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of three small prehistoric burial mounds, lying in a N-S line in marshy ground. The three mounds measure 5.5m, 8m and 7m in diameter respectively, from N to S, and 0.7m, 0.8m and 0.2m in height, respectively. The northernmost has been dug into, revealing a possible circular burial cist, 1.3m across. The area to be scheduled is rectangular, 60m N-S by 50m E-W, to include all 3 mounds and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their construction and use may survive, as indicated in red on the accompanying map.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a good group of small burial mounds, probably of Bronze Age date. Such mounds, in Orkney and elsewhere, have in the past provided valuable



evidence regarding prehistoric burial practices and , from study of skeletal material, past diet and anatomy.

Site Number 87

Site Name Too of Nugle, burial mound 500m WSW of Innister. Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1401

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 338206 Northing 1033539

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of a burial mound dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It survives as a low, oval mound of earth and stone, measuring some 12m by 10.5m and standing 0.8m high, surmounted by modern cairn material. Some of the large slabs on its surface may have once formed a cist, and a 5m depression in the centre may indicate that it was disturbed in antiquity. Despite the effects of burrowing animals, the mound is likely to contain important archaeological evidence, including possibly human remains. The monument is situated on open moorland at approximately 95m above sea level and with a predominantly N and E aspect. The monument was originally scheduled in 1935, but the scheduled area was inaccurate: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 25m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments in the Bronze Age, the nature of burial practices, and their significance in prehistoric society. The monument has the potential to contribute to our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows, which are an important part of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. The loss of this monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the placing of such monuments within the landscape and the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistoric times.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 20.

References

Downes, J 1995, 'Linga Fold', Current Archaeology 142, 396-399.

Downes, J 1997, The Orkney Barrows Project survey results and management strategy (unpubl rep to Historic Scotland: ARCUS, University of Sheffield).

RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 203, no 561.

RCAHMS 1982, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Orkney Islands Area, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series 16, Edinburgh, 19, no 39. Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].



Site Number 88

Site Name Quoyhorrie, three mounds 200m ESE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1402

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328488

Northing 1027024

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises three burial mounds: a pair of circular mounds in close proximity to each other, and a third circular mound located NE (downslope) of the pair of mounds. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains. The present re-scheduling rectifies this.

The two adjacent mounds, approximately 8m apart, were originally described as each about 10m in diameter and standing 1.5m and 1m in height respectively. Little remains on the ground surface today, mainly due to the effects of long-term ploughing. The upcast from a deep field drain cut along their western edges has also obscured their appearance. Despite their degraded state, however, the mounds are still clearly discernible as a surface feature around their N, E and S sides.

The third mound, which lies approximately 50m NE of the pair of mounds, was not previously included in the scheduled area. This mound is about 7m in diameter and stands up to 0.5m high.

Archaeological excavations elsewhere in Orkney have shown that mounds such as these, even when their above-ground appearance has been much altered, often overlie human burials, pyre sites and other features associated with the rituals of Bronze Age burial (second millennium BC).

The area to be scheduled has two components. The first is rectangular in shape and measures 40m N-S by 25m E-W, as marked in red on the accompanying map. It includes the two mounds and an area around them in which evidence relating to their construction and use may survive. The second element is a circle 17m in diameter, centred on the centre of the third mound, to include the mound and an area around it in which evidence relating to its construction and use may survive, also marked in red on the accompanying map. The post-and-wire fence that runs along the W edge of the rectangular area, and the edges of the open field drain that runs through this same area, are excluded from the scheduling to allow for routine maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a group of prehistoric mounds which have the potential to add to our knowledge of Bronze Age burial and ritual practices, and of the contemporary landscape. Their importance is enhanced because of their group value, and because they bear comparison with a number of similar monuments in Orkney which have been subject to excavation and research over the last decade.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 16.

RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3V, Edinburgh, 25.



Site Number 90

Site Name Newbigging, three mounds 300m WSW of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or domestic)

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1406

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 325262

Northing 1022061

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises three low mounds, presumed to be Bronze Age burial monuments, situated in a line on a conspicuous ridge. To the north is a small, low, turf-covered mound of earth and stone measuring about 6m in diameter and surviving to a height of about 0.3m. The central mound measures 12.5m from N to S by 9m transversely and stands to about 0.6m in height. Some stone is visible, particularly in the rabbit holes. The southernmost mound is of similar but is not so high

similar but is not so high.

The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present scheduling remedies this. Until 1994 only two of the three mounds had been recognised.

The area to be scheduled is approximately

The area to be scheduled is approximately rectangular on plan and measures up to 80m from N to S by up to 25m transversely, to include the mounds and an area around in which evidence relating to their construction and use may survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map extract. The above ground elements of the modern field boundaries are excluded from the

scheduling.

Site Number 91

Site Name Vestra Fiold, four mounds, 380m SW of Vestrafiold

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; mound (ritual or funerary rather than defensive or dom

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1409

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324158

Northing 1022096

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of four barrows (burial mounds) dating probably from the Bronze Age (between 2000 BC and 800 BC). The monument is visible as a line of four upstanding, circular, turf-covered earthen mounds. The mounds vary in size between 8m and 15m in diameter and range in height from 0.7m to 1.25m. The monument occupies a conspicuous location on a ridge at 120m above OD, with extensive views to the E. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern

standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area consists of a rectangular area 100m NNE-SSW by 40m WNW-ESE. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of

the post-and-wire fence that crosses the scheduled area.



#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of funerary and burial practice in the Bronze Age. Burial mounds and earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape, and provide evidence for the major social and economic changes which took place during this period. The mounds at Vestra Fiold retain their field characteristics to a marked degree and are significant examples of their type. Excavation of similar sites elsewhere in Orkney demonstrates that these mounds have the potential to contain one or more burials and associated features, such as the remains of funeral pyres or mortuary structures. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, as the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns. The significance of the Vestra Fiold group is enhanced by its association with a wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments located around Vestra Fiold hill and the west coast of Orkney Mainland, which has one of the most important concentrations of such monuments in Orkney. Our understanding of the dating, form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 9.

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Towrie, S 2013, The Knowes o' Trotty, http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/[accessed August 2013].

Site Number 92

Site Name Wheebin standing stone

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: standing stone

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1414

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 325320 Northing 1026300

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

The monument comprises an exceptionally tall, single standing stone, known as the Wheebin Stone. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but an inadequate area was included to

protect all of the archaeological remains: the present re-scheduling rectifies this.

The Wheebin Stone stands an impressive 3.5m high. It is about 1.5m wide and 0.4m thick at its base, but gradually reduces in width further up the stone, tapering almost to a point at the top. The broad sides of the stone face NNW-SSE and the stone inclines slightly upslope towards the NNW. The stone shows the effects of severe weathering, with one deep fissure penetrating one of the surfaces from the top of the stone almost to its middle; while rubbing by livestock has policied the surface of the lower half of the stone.

has polished the surface of the lower half of the stone.

Standing stones such as the Wheebin Stone were normally erected in the later Neolithic period



(around 2000 BC), and probably continued to have a ritual or spiritual significance in later

The area to be scheduled is a circle 20m in diameter, centred on the Wheebin Stone, to include the stone and an area around it in which evidence relating to its erection and use may survive, as indicated in red on the accompanying map. The above-ground elements of the fence, currently protecting the stone, are excluded from the scheduling to allow for their routine maintenance, but the below-ground portions of the concrete fence posts are specifically included.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a fine example of a standing stone, which has the potential to provide important information about the religious or ritual life of past societies. The ground surrounding the standing stone retains the potential to provide important information about the use of the site and changes in landuse before, during and after the erection of the stone.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22NE 3.

RCAHMS 1946, INVENTORY OF THE MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY, Edinburgh: RCAHMS, 22.

Site Number 93

Site Name Midland, burial mound 450m NNE of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1415

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339746

Northing 1023664

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a burial mound or barrow dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2000 and 800 BC). It is visible as a low, roughly circular, earthen mound, which measures approximately 8m in diameter and stands 0.8m high. The burial mound is located on the coastal edge at the S end of Wood Wick, a natural bay in the NE of Orkney Mainland. It overlooks Gairsay Sound and has fine views to the N over the islands of Wyre and Rousay. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is a truncated circle on plan, 20m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of a post-and-wire fence to allow for its maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to understanding of funerary practice in the Bronze Age. This example has suffered some coastal erosion, but excavation of similar barrows in Orkney has demonstrated that the surviving remains have high potential to retain important structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence. Earthen barrows form an important and relatively widespread element of Orkney's Bronze Age landscape. Orkney's barrows are unusual in Scotland, and important within a British context, because the majority are earthen mounds as opposed to stone-built cairns.



They provide evidence for the significant changes which took place in society and funerary practice in the Bronze Age in Orkney. The significance of this example is enhanced by its proximity to the burial mound and settlement at Knowe of Midgarth, 170m to the SE, and because of its association with the wider landscape of Bronze Age burial monuments in this area of Orkney. Our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age barrows would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY32SE 7.

References

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http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/knowestrotty/ [accessed August 2013].

Site Number 94

Site Name South Howe, broch, Westside, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch; settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1425

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337274

Northing 1030377

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a substantial broch mound mainly of Iron Age date (between about 600 BC and AD 400), together with associated and later settlement, including Late Norse buildings (11th-13th century AD). The mound is roughly circular in plan, approximately 19m in diameter, and stands up to 1.7m high. There are surface indications of external defensive ditches and banks. The W side of the mound has suffered some coastal erosion, with the loss of part of the broch wall (around one-eighth). The surviving broch walls visible in section are 4.2m wide at the base, narrow to 3.9m at their highest point, and stand up to 2.5m high. A considerable quantity of structural remains and archaeological midden material is eroding out of the cliff section on either side of the broch: altogether, the settlement stretches some 100m along the shoreline. Some of these structures are likely to be the remains of an associated broch village or post-broch settlement dating from the first millennium AD. Subsequently the site was colonised by the Norse, represented by the remains of Late Norse buildings. The upper layers of the mound include 19th-century middens testifying to use of the site into relatively recent times: the abandoned farmstead of Brough lies immediately adjacent to the E. The monument is located right on the cliff edge, in an area of unimproved ground at around 10m above sea level. The broch is situated 440m SSE of North Howe broch and 250m SSE of Mid Howe broch. The Late Norse buildings lie some 780m NNW of the excavated Norse hall at Westness. The site



has extensive views to the E and S toward Eynhallow Sound. The monument was first scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling extends up to, but specifically excludes, the walls of the abandoned farmstead of Brough to the E. The scheduling also excludes the above-ground elements of interpretation panels forming part of the Westness Trail.

#### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney, the function, use and development of brochs and associated settlements, and societal changes as a result of the Norse colonisation of earlier sites. Despite the loss of part of the site to coastal erosion, this is an impressive example of a large broch mound in an exceptionally rich archaeological landscape. It is evident from the cliff section that the broch retains its structural characteristics to a marked degree. The site as a whole clearly has a complex development sequence: the broch may also overlie earlier remains and the mound certainly includes evidence for later re-use of the site, including in the Late Norse period and subsequently. Its importance is enhanced because it is one of three substantial brochs and broch mounds in close proximity along this stretch of coast in Rousay and there is high potential to study the relationship between them. The monument is part of a wider landscape of prehistoric and early medieval remains in this part of Rousay, which contains an exceptional concentration of archaeological sites and is an important source of evidence for social and economic change in northern Scotland over several millennia. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and reuse of brochs, the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Orkney and further afield, the impact of Norse colonisation and subsequent developments. It would also be a significant loss from an exceptionally important archaeological landscape in Rousay.

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RCAHMS record the site as HY33SE 10.

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Dockrill, S J, Bond, J M, Downes, J, and Mainland, I L 2010, 'The Mound of Brough, the Ditch NE of Midhowe and the Knowe of Swandro, Orkney (Rousay and Egilsay parish), evaluation and excavation', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol 11, 123-4.

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Edinburgh, 193, no 552.

Ritchie, J N G 1988, The Brochs of Scotland, Aylesbury: Shire.

Site Number 95

Site Name Broch of Burgar, broch

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1426

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 335205

Northing 1027704

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a broch dating probably from the Iron Age (between around 600 BC and AD 400). It is visible as a substantial turf-covered mound, with part of the broch tower's walls still visible on the N and S sides, surviving up to 2m in height. Limited excavations in the early 19th century revealed that the broch is approximately 18.3m in external diameter, within walls 4m thick. A Pictish silver hoard was recovered from within the broch, but the artefacts have since been lost. Two skeletons were also recorded, one apparently accompanied by two Viking gold rings. Part of the interior of the broch with its intramural cells is still traceable today. The buried remains of an external defensive ditch and further settlement surround the broch tower. The broch is located next to the coast, at about 5m above sea level. It has extensive views in all directions, but especially to the N out over Eynhallow Sound. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. This is an impressive and well-preserved broch mound in a rich archaeological landscape. By analogy with excavated brochs elsewhere in Orkney, and as confirmed by the 19th-century exploratory excavations, this monument retains its structural characteristics to a marked degree. The broch is likely to have a complex development sequence. It may overlie earlier remains and there is evidence for later re-use of the site, as indicated by the discovery of a Pictish hoard and at least one Viking burial. Its importance is enhanced by the presence of defensive outworks, rare on Orcadian brochs, and because of its proximity to several other brochs along the Evie coastline, with high potential to study the relationship between them. The monument is part of a landscape containing an exceptional concentration of important archaeological sites testifying to social and economic change over several millennia. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and re-use of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy, in Orkney and further afield.

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RCAHMS record the site as HY32NE27.

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Thomas, F W L 1852, 'An account of some Celtic antiquities of Orkney, including the Stones of Stenness, tumuli, Picts houses &c., with plans', Archaeologia 34, 122-3.

Site Number 96

Site Name Burrian Broch, broch, Corrigall

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1428/HY31NW 33
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332353

Northing 1019375

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2025

From Canmore record:

HY31NW 33 3235 1937. (HY 3235 1937) Burrian (NR) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

Burrian, a large mound containing the remains of a broch despoiled for building materials, is situated on the steep right bank of Corrigall Burn. On the NW side, six courses of drystone walling, 4 ft 6 ins high and 8 ft long are exposed but, elsewhere, only the foundation courses are discernible, in one or two places, suggesting an external diameter of about 53 ft. The proprietor encountered a passage 2 ft wide (which he filled in) within the walls, whilst removing stones.

The broch is partly surrounded for half its circumference at a distance of 40 ft by a deep ditch 33 ft across. An earthen embankment, from 2 ft 6 ins to 5 ft 6 ins high, lies on the outer lip of the ditch at the west side. The remains of 'outbuildings' lie between the broch and the ditch. RCAHMS 1946.

Burrian, the remains of a broch generally as described by the Commission, measures c.16.7m in external diameter. An inner wall-face is visible on the N side giving a wall thickness of 4.8m. Mutilation and the disturbance of the ground to the N, W, and E of the broch, between it and the ditch, have revealed wall-faces of indeterminate structures. The ditch and outer bank at the west side are as described by the RCAHMS.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.



Visited by OS (NKB) 19 June 1966.

Publication Account (2002)
Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1

HY31 4 BURRIAN 3 ('Burrian, Corrigall', 'Burrian broch, Harray')

HY/32351937

A probable broch inside a large mound which has suffered from extensive quarrying; a short section of the outer wall face can be seen on the NW, about 2.4 m (8 ft.) long and 1.4 m (4.5 ft.) high in six battered courses of dry stone masonry. One or two other blocks suggest an overall diameter of 16.2 m (53 ft.). There is a deep outer ditch 10.1 m (33 ft.) across surrounding the mound about 12.2 m (40 ft.) out from its base, with part of a possible outer embankment on the W. There are traces of outbuildings between broch mound and ditch. Sources: 1. HY 31 NW 33: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, 13, no. 12: Hedges et al. 1987, 70.

E W MacKie 2002

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Site Number 97

Site Name
Burrian,broch,NE shore of Loch of Harray

Type of Site
Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1429/HY21NE 29
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329654

Northing 1018347

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 1620
From Canmore record:

HY21NE 29 2964 1835.

(HY 2961 1834) Burrian Broch {NR} OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

Burrian broch, situated on the outer end of a low promontory on the east side of the Loch of Harray. Only a fragment of the inner wall face remains on the NE side, incorporating a mural cell and part of the north side of the east entrance. A more modern wall runs E-W across the centre of the broch.

At a distance of 8ft from the south side of the probable line of the outer wall face there is a curved piece of walling 20ft long and 2ft high which probably encircled the broch.

A row of boulders across the neck of the peninsula may be an outer defence or may be a later construction. Excavations by Farrer in 1866 revealed 'underground cupboards' partly beneath the floor of the central area of the broch (J Farrer 1870), and the finds, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS), include many worked stones, stone lamps, circular discs, coarse pottery sherds a piece of iron and the bronze butt of a spear (A O Curle 1920). RCAHMS 1946.



Burrian Broch, generally as described by the Commission. Resurveyed at 1/2500. Visited by OS (RL) 14 May 1966.

An excavation is mentioned in 'The Orcadian' newspaper in 1866.

Antiquarian Observation (1862 - 1870)

Drawings by George Petrie of sites in Orkney and Shetland in sketchbook MS 28/487/7 in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Collection.

Publication Account (2002)

Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1

HY21 2 BURRIAN 1 (RUSSLAND) ('Burrian Broch, Russland': 'Broch of Harray', 'Harray') HY/29611834

A probable solid-based broch in Harray, on the broad outer end of a long, flat promontory projecting into the Loch of Harray. Only a little of this structure is left. The site is called Harray by Petrie and is not to be confused with his "broch at the Manse" of Harray (Netlater: HY31 14 below). The inner face of a wall concentric to that of the broch but only 2.4 m (8 ft.) from it is apparent on the south and may be part of outer defences, as may also a row of boulders across the neck of the promontory.

The broch was excavated by Farrer in 1866 [2] and, as usual, George Petrie made some notes on what was discovered. The entrance passage was found on the east with slab-built door-checks about 2.1 m (7 ft.) down the passage as measured from the plan [4. fig. 79]. There seems to have been a guard cell on the right of the passage with traces of another on the left (the latter is not shown on Petrie's plan). In 1929 the only part of the inner wall face still visible was on the NE arc -- from about 3 o'clock to the entrance -- and there were signs of a door in this wall about 1.8 m (6 ft.) above the floor [4]. Inside this were possible traces of a stair ascending radially, not along the wall. Farrer noted "cists" or tanks set into the broch floor and the plan shows various structures in the interior which are presumably secondary.

The curved wall face outside the broch is shown on Petrie's plan as running round the whole of the south-eastern arc, from about 10 o'clock anti-clockwise and past the entrance. He shows is to be 2-3 ft. from the broch wall but the Commission's measurement of about 8 ft. is undoubtedly more reliable. It may be surmised that a structure so close to the broch wall is more likely to be part of some outbuildings than a defence work.

Dimensions (taken from Petrie's plan). External diameter c. 18.6 m (61 ft.): internal diameter c. 9.8 m (32 ft.): walls proportion approximately 47.5%.

Finds [7]: these included "many worked stones, stone lamps, fragments of coarse pottery, perforated stones, and some of those curious stone discs, hitherto found only at Skaill" (Skara Brae). Of particular interest is an ornamented bronze spear-butt which can now be dated to about the 3rd-5th centuries AD, the latter part of the middle Iron Age [8]. Needless to say no contexts for the finds are given.

Sources: 1. OS card HY 21 NE 29: 2. Farrer 1867, 103-4: 3. Petrie 1890, 72: 4. Fraser 1923: 5. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 14, 15 and figs. 78, 79 and 62 (pl.): 6. Hedges et al. 1987, 68-70 and pls. 3.2 and 3.3 (ms plan and sketch of interior by Petrie): 7. Proc Soc Antiq Scot 7 (1866-68), 103-4 (finds): 8. Heald 2001.

E W MacKie 2002

#### Orkney Smr Note

'I have cleared out a brough in Harray, which presented nothing very peculiar. Within the ruins, however, were found many worked stones, stone lamps, fragments of coarse pottery, perforated stones, and some of those curious circular discs, hitherto only found at Skaill, and described as plates by Mr William Watt; a modern-looking bronze implement, the handle of some weapon I imagine, which I saw dug up myself. A small fragment of iron was also found, but at some distance from the bronze.... There were kists, or rather underground cupboards, partly beneath the floor of the main circular chamber'. [R1]

Presented by J Farrer in 1867. Collection from the Broch of Harray. GF 1-27, (1-6) Pounders of sandstone, abraded on edges by use, from three and a half to five inches long; (7) fragment of hematite; (8-11) flat, circular discs viz 8-9, of slate, ten and three quarters, and five and three quarters inches in diameter; 10, of stone, four and a quarter inches in diameter; 11, of stone, perforated, three inches in diameter; (12) slab of stone, eight x five and three quarters x one



and five-eights inches, with longitudinal indentations cut into it; (13-16) whorls of bone and stone, from one and a half to two inches in diameter; (17) stud of bone, perforated; (18-22) pointed implements of bone from one and three quarters to three and a quarter inches long; (23) boar's tusk; (24-25) fragments of deer-horn; (26) portion of bone of whale with two perforations; (27) bronze tip of spear-shaft, three and a half inches long. [R2] The bronze spear butt is likened to the one (less ornate) found at Traprain Law. [R3] Information from Orkney SMR [n.d]

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The Orcadian. (1866) The Orcadian, July 10th 1866, The Orcadian.

Site Number 98

Site Name

Knowe of Burrian, broch at Netherbrough

Type of Site

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1431

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330836 Northing 1016799

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a broch dating probably from the Iron Age (between around 600 BC and AD 400). It is visible as a substantial turf-covered mound, measuring approximately 48m N-S by 45m E-W, and standing up to 6m high. It is not known whether the mound is entirely artificial or partly natural. Limited excavations in 1936 revealed that the broch itself is approximately 18.3m in overall diameter, with walls 5m thick. A carved Pictish symbol stone was recovered from within the broch. Beneath the floor in the W half of the interior, an elaborate rock-cut underground chamber was discovered, lined with masonry and reached by a stone-built staircase. The chamber is reported to be about 3.2m long, 1.8m wide and 4m high, with a corbelled roof. Part of the interior of the broch is still exposed today, but not the chamber. The remains of an external defensive ditch and bank are visible on aerial photographs SW of the mound; these outworks were also recorded on the first edition



Ordnance Survey map. The broch mound is located inland, on relatively level ground some 800m E of the Loch of Harray, at about 7m above sea level. It has extensive views in all directions but especially to the W over the Loch of Harray, SSW to the Broch of Gullow only 520m away, and SW towards another broch called Burrian, 2.4km distant, on the W shore of the Loch of Harray. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 100m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's use and re-use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. This is an impressive and well-preserved broch mound in a rich archaeological landscape. By analogy with excavated brochs in Orkney, and as confirmed by the 1936 exploratory excavation, this monument retains its structural characteristics to a marked degree. The broch is likely to have a complex development sequence. It may overlie earlier remains and probably includes evidence for later re-use of the site, as indicated by the discovery of a Class 1 Pictish carved stone. Its importance is enhanced by the presence of defensive outworks, rare on Orcadian brochs, and because of its proximity to several other brochs in the Loch Harray area, with high potential to study the relationship between them. The monument is part of a landscape containing an exceptional concentration of important archaeological sites testifying to social and economic change over several millennia. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and reuse of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Orkney and further afield.

References

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RCAHMS record the site as HY31NW 2.

References

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Ballin Smith, B (ed) 1994, Howe, Four millennia of Orkney Prehistory, Edinburgh, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series 9.

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Site Number 99

Site Name Oxtro or Oxtra, broch, Boardhouse

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1444



**Status** Scheduled Monument

325378 **Easting Northing** 1026791

**Parish** Birsay And Harray Council Orkney Islands Description Description

> The monument consists of the remains of a broch, an Iron Age defensive dwelling. The monument was formerly known as the Brough of Haughster, and has also been spelled

Oxtrow, Oxtro and Oxtra in various descriptions since the early 19th century.

The broch stands to the W of the Stromness to Birsay road. It was excavated in 1847, and produced several burials with associated artefacts of late Iron Age or "Pictish" date, under which was found a broch. The latter is 22m in diameter, with walls 4m thick. The wall is visible, standing up to 5 courses high in a grassy field. There are several chambers within the wall thickness, and the entrance was probably from the NW side. The deposits associated with the broch were remarkable for the presence of several sherds of Roman pottery of Samian type, dating to the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD.

The area to be scheduled is circular, 42m across and centred just SSE of the centre of the broch, to include the broch and a small area around in which deposits related to its construction and use may survive. The area is marked in red on the accompanying map.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the remains of a broch with proven archaeological potential. Although partly excavated, it retains great potential to provide further evidence relating to the period of the brochs and succeeding centuries, and in particular about contacts between Orkney and more distant regions.

Site Number 100

**Site Name** Knowe of Burrian, broch 190m SSW of Burrian, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1451

Scheduled Monument **Status** 

340065 **Easting Northing** 1027452

**Parish** Rousay And Egilsay Council Orkney Islands Description Description

> The monument is a broch dating probably to between 600 BC and AD 400. It survives as a steep, curving grass-grown stony mound which stands up to 3m high. Stone walling is exposed in places revealing the curvature of the broch tower. There are indications of an outer bank to the W of the mound, and on the N and E sides the uneven ground surface may indicate the presence of additional settlement remains. The southern edge of the mound is suffering from coastal erosion which has exposed a section revealing archaeological deposits and stone structures. The broch is situated on a rocky promontory on the S coast of Rousay, overlooking Eynhallow Sound. The monument was first scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not

meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around it within which evidence relating to the monument's use and re-use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of modern stone walls, post-and-wire fences and two boat nousts to



allow for their maintenance.

Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the role and function of brochs in northern Britain. Significant remains of the lower broch structure and occupation deposits are likely to survive within the mound, and there is also potential for the survival of associated structures and settlement surrounding the broch to the N and E. The mound is still prominent in the landscape today and its significance is enhanced because it is one of a group of brochs along this stretch of the Rousay coastline, all of which overlook Eynhallow Sound and towards another string of brochs along the E coast of Orkney Mainland, including the Broch of Gurness. Together, these broch sites in close proximity have high potential to elucidate our understanding of the organisation of society and land-use in the Iron Age. The loss of this monument would impede our ability to understand the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy, both in Orkney and across Scotland as a whole. It would also diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the relationship between these brochs and their landscape.

References Bibliography Other information

RCAHMS record the site as HY42NW 13.

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RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 193, no 551.

Site Number 101

Site Name Knowe of Grugar or Ryo,broch SE of Burgar

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1454/HY32NE 10
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 335645 Northing 1027295

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2160

From Canmore record:

HY32NE 10 3564 2730.

(HY 3563 2730) Knowe of Ryo (NR)



OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

Broch, (Probable), Knowe of Ryo: This grass-covered mound, usually called the Knowe of Grugar, is at least 100 ft in diameter and about 16 ft high. Although no actual masonry is visible, it is evidently full of stones, several of which, laid on edge, can be seen protruding through the turf.

Outward appearances suggest that in all likelihood it conceals the remains of a large broch. RCAHMS 1946.

The Know of Grugar is a large amorphous turf-covered mound as described by the Commission, covering the remains of stone-built structures, probably a broch and outbuildings, judging by its similarity to others in the area (HY32NE 11 and HY32NE 27; HY32NW 13).

The name is known locally.

Visited by OS (NKB) 9 June 1967.

### Aerial Photography (1971)

Oblique aerial photographs of the remains of the possible broch at Knowe of Grugar, Orkney, taken by John Dewar in 1971.

Publication Account (2002) Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1 HY32 3 KNOWE OF RYO ('Knowe of Grugar')

Possible broch in Evie and Rendall, a grass-covered mound on the shore; no laid masonry is visible but the mound is evidently full of stones and seems likely to conceal the ruins of a large broch.

Sources: 1. OS card HY 32 NE 10: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 267, 79-80.

E W MacKie 2002

HY/356273

#### Geophysical Survey (16 October 2011 - 11 November 2011)

HY 3453 2674 (centred on) An extensive walkover survey covering c175ha was undertaken, 16 October–11 November 2011, in a transect running SW from the Evie coast, as part of PhD research. A total of 28 sites were identified, including 19 previously unrecorded sites. In the main, these sites were related to the post-medieval and early modern exploitation of the landscape. However, a burnt mound was located, as well as possible sub-peat features in an upland area that may be tentatively be assigned a prehistoric date. A targeted gradiometer survey was undertaken on two sites within the survey area.

The first area spanned c4.2ha covering the Knowe of Grugar (HY32NE10) and its surrounding area. The responses were generally well defined, with anomalies suggestive of a substantial roundhouse, with associated domestic activity, surrounded by a large ditch. Outside the ditch the responses and trends in the data demonstrated some enhancement that may relate to the settlement.

The second area of c2.9ha around the partially excavated Broch of Burgar (HY32NE27) also produced well defined responses, with a clear ditch-like anomaly surrounding the roundhouse and associated settlement. Further ditch-like anomalies running c150m inland appeared to indicate a contemporary enclosure of an unusual and substantial nature.

Report: Orkney SMR and RCAHMS (intended)

Funder: Orkney College UHI Orkney College UHI, 2011

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Moore, J. (2011) 'Evie Landscape Survey, Orkney (Evie and Rendall parish), walkover and geophysical survey', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 12, 2011. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 132

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v. Edinburgh. Page(s): 79-80, No.267 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12



Site Number 102

Site Name Knowe of Skogar, broch

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1458

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 326390

Northing 1023407

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a broch mound dating probably from the Iron Age (between about 600 BC and AD 400). It is visible as an irregular-shaped stony mound measuring approximately 20m E-W by 8m N-S and standing up to 1.5m high. The mound is highly likely to contain the foundations of a broch tower and associated features and buried deposits. There are also traces of a possible ditch and bank to the NW and NE. The broch mound is located in a slight hollow on improved ground E of the Loch of Isbister, at about 20m above sea level. It has extensive views in all directions, but especially out over the Loch of Isbister. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 50m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. By analogy with excavated brochs elsewhere in Orkney, this monument is likely to retain its structural characteristics and may have a complex development sequence: it may overlie earlier remains and may also include evidence for later re-use of the site. The monument's importance is enhanced because there are rather few broch sites in this general vicinity compared to elsewhere in Orkney and because of its association with the wider landscape of Iron Age settlement in Orkney. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development and use of brochs in Orkney and their placing in the landscape.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS record the site as HY22SE 39.

References

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Ballin Smith, B (ed) 1994, Howe, Four Millennia of Orkney Prehistory, Edinburgh, Soc Antiq Scot monogr ser 9.

Ballin Smith, B 2005, 'Orcadian brochs' complex settlements with complex origins'. In Turner, V E, Dockrill, S J, Nicholson, R A and Bond, J M (eds) 2005, Tall Stories? Two Millennia of Brochs, Shetland Amenity Trust: Lerwick, 66-77.

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Edinburgh, 16, no 16.

Ritchie, J N G 1988, The Brochs of Scotland, Aylesbury: Shire.

Site Number 103

Site Name Knowe Stenso, broch N of Dyke

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1459/HY32NE 11
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 336403 Northing 1026731

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2161

From Canmore record:

HY32NE 11 36394 26747

(HY 3638 2675) Knowe of Stenso (NR) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed.,(1900).

A broch of which no details are now ascertainable. The foundation- courses of the outer wall can be traced for about 20 ft on the north segment, indicating a wall-thickness of at least 12 ft. Traces of a gallery about 1 ft wide can be seen on the top of the mound and there are suggestions of extensive building on the south. A boring instrument of seal bone, 8 1/2 ins long, is in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS). (PSAS 1921 Donations). RCAHMS 1946.

The Knowe of Stenso is a turf-covered broch, as described by the Commission, surviving to a height of 4.0m. There are no surveyable remains of the outbuildings.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (NKB) 9 June 1967.

Aerial Photography (1971)

Oblique aerial photographs of the remains of a possible broch at Knowe of Stenso, Orkney, photographed by John Dewar in 1971.

Publication Account (2002) Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1 HY32 4 KNOWE OF STENSO HY/36382675

Probable broch in Evie and Rendall, on the edge of the rocky coast; the site has been much disturbed but a length of 6.1 m (20 ft.) of the foundation course of the inner and outer wall faces are traceable on the N, indicating a wall thickness of c. 3.6 m (12 ft.). There are traces of what may be a mural gallery c. 30 cm (1 ft.) wide at one point on the wall head, and there are suggestions of outbuildings on the south side. A bone borer was found at the site [3]. Sources: 1. OS card HY 32 NE 11: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 263, 74-5: 3. Proc Soc Antiq Scot 55 (1020-21), 27E; Hodges et al. 1027, 61

(1920-21), 275: Hedges et al. 1987, 61.

E W MacKie 2002

### References

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British Series 342. Oxford. Page(s): 233 RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.9.1.MAC

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vol. 55, 1920-1. Page(s): 275

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 74-5, No.262 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 104

Site Name Loch of Harray, broch on W shore of

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1460/HY21NE 40
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 327612
Northing 1017648
Parish Sandwick

Council

**Description** Canmore ID: 1633

From Canmore record:

Orkney Islands

HY21NE 40 2761 1764. (HY 2761 1764) Brough {NR} OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1903).

To judge by surface indications the probable broch at Scarrataing was unusually large, and the thickness of the wall must have been about 13ft (its inner face can be seen for about 3ft). The remains are fragmentary and obscured by a mass of overgrown debris.

There appear to have been outbuildings to the S and SE, where an outer wall, elsewhere about 24ft away, diverges further. This wall has been destroyed on the side towards the Loch of Harray where also an unrecorded excavation has taken place in the mound.

RCAHMS 1946.

As described by the Commission, except that the inner wall is no longer visible.

Resurveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (RL) 18 May 1967.

Publication Account (2002) Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1 HY21 10 SCARRATAING

Probable broch in Sandwick, on the west shore of the Loch of Harray in which a little of the inner face of the curved wall can be seen; the wall thickness was estimated at 4.0 m (13 ft.) and the overall diameter, from these indications, was thought to be "unusually large". Traces of probable outbuildings are on the south side and on the landward side there is a curved outer rampart.

Sources: 1. OS card HY 21 NE 40: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 681, 254.

E W MacKie 2002

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HY/276176

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Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.



Edinburgh. Page(s): 254, No.681 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 105

Site Name

North Bigging, broch 80m SSW of Mithiest

Type of Site

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1464

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330819

Northing 1020005

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a broch mound dating probably from the Iron Age (between around 600 BC and AD 400). The monument is visible as part of a substantial circular mound, with around two-thirds of the mound (the NW portion) surviving as upstanding remains today. To the SE the mound has been robbed of material, but the footings of the broch and related deposits are expected to survive as buried remains. The upstanding turf-covered mound measures approximately 50m NE-SW by 25m transversely and stands up to 1.5m high. An excavation in 1935 revealed a substantial wall and passageway. The upstanding part of the broch mound is located in an area of unimproved ground used for rough grazing, enclosed by a stone dyke that runs NE-SW across the monument and NW-SE along the edge of the mound. The buried remains of the SE part of the broch lie in a ploughed field. The broch mound is located on a SW-facing slope overlooking the Loch of Harray, at about 45m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1937, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's use and re-use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the stone dykes to allow for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. Despite the disturbance to the SE portion, the broch mound has high potential to support future archaeological research. The mound contains the remains of a broch tower, which is highly likely to retain its structural characteristics to a marked degree. A substantial wall and passageway was recorded as being visible during an excavation in 1935 and the mound is expected to contain the remains of structural features typical of brochs, including scarcement ledges and intramural stairs and cells, together with buried deposits rich in occupation debris, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The monument's importance is enhanced by its position in a landscape rich in archaeological remains overlooking the Loch of Harray and beyond to the important Neolithic remains of in the area. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and function of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy, in Orkney and further afield.

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Mackie, E W 2002, The Roundhouses, Brochs and Wheelhouses of Atlantic Scotland c 700 BC - AD 500: Architecture and Material Culture, Part 1: The Orkney and Shetland Isles, Brit Archaeol Rep Brit Ser 342.

RCAHMS, 1946 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 16-17, no 19.

Site Number 106

Site Name Midhouse, souterrain 380m ESE of

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: souterrain, earth-house

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1465

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332340

Northing 1029110

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a souterrain (sometimes called an earth-house in Orkney), a subterranean structure built of stone and earth, dating probably from the Iron Age (between about 800 BC and 300 AD). The souterrain survives as an intact D-shaped underground chamber, accessed by a short passageway from the N. The monument is not visible at ground level, but was recorded archaeologically when it was discovered in 1930 and again in 1999. The chamber measures approximately 3.4m by 2.4m and stands about 1m high. Around the sides, seven monoliths ranged at approximately equal intervals support the roof, which is comprised of 14 horizontal slabs. The floor is unpaved. The monument is situated on N-facing agricultural land at 30m above sea level, overlooking Eynhallow Sound and Rousay to the N. The monument was originally scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 22m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

## Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, in particular the design and construction of souterrains (underground chambers) and their function and significance to Iron Age communities in Orkney. The monument has the potential to enhance our understanding of



later prehistoric society, its organisation, economy, religion and demography. In particular, it has high potential to add to our understanding of the agricultural basis of Iron Age settlements in Orkney and the storage and management of surpluses. Recent research suggests that souterrains may also have had ceremonial or ritual uses. The monument is substantially intact below ground and there is good potential for the survival of important evidence of its function(s). As souterrains are often associated with other structures, there is also good potential for the preservation of other prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity of this monument. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the significance of souterrains and the role they played in Iron Age society and the prehistoric landscape of Orkney.

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RCAHMS records the site as HY32NW 11.

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RCAHMS 1946, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v Edinburgh, 80, no 271.

Site Number 107

Site Name Ness of Woodwick, broch, 970m E of Lower Bisgarth

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1467

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 340078

Northing 1024852

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a well-preserved broch mound and associated remains, dating probably from the Iron Age (between about 600 BC and AD 400). The broch is visible as a roughly circular, steep-sided, flat-topped, turf-covered mound, measuring approximately 15m in diameter and standing around 3m high. Where it meets the beach, a 1m high section of the external broch wall is visible intermittently over a distance of about 10m, though partly collapsed due to marine erosion. A stony platform extends around the W side of the mound. A later stone-walled enclosure lies immediately to the S, overlying the southern edge of the mound. A small part of the broch mound extends into the enclosure, and several low turf-covered banks and stony mounds are visible both within the enclosure and immediately outside it to the SE. These probably relate to outworks associated with the broch, but may also include broch period and later settlement remains. The broch is located on a low promontory on the S shore of Eynhallow Sound at around 6m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1936,



but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes all above-ground elements of post-and-wire fencing and drystone walling to allow for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the construction, use and development of brochs. Apart from some marine erosion on its E side, the broch mound is in good condition. There is also evidence for possible outworks, ancillary structures and later buildings to the W and S of the broch mound. This site therefore offers considerable potential to preserve a complex development sequence. The monument's importance is enhanced by its association with the wider landscape and its inter-relationship with a number of other brochs on the N and S shores of Eynhallow Sound, including the famous brochs of Gurness and Mid Howe. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the construction, development, use and re-use of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Orkney and further afield.

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Site Number 108

Site Name Nettletar, broch 250m SW of

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1468

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332324

Northing 1017417

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a broch or related structure, with associated remains. It is already scheduled, but with an inadequate area to protect all of the remains. This proposal rectifies this defect.

The monument to be scheduled is a broch, or closely related structure, and settlement which was investigated by Rev. Dr Traill. The broch or related structure measured over 16m across externally. Its entrance was to the east and it contained three mural cells and a well. Outside it were walls and, on its east side, small cells. It has been incorporated in the field wall system. An irregular low mound on its NE side may reflect the underground presence of the cells referred to above, while the topography suggests that associated remains may survive to its

west.



Some 30 to 40m to its SE is a low mound which may be natural and is therefore not included in this scheduling. The scheduling includes those parts of the field wall within the scheduled area since they seem likely to be built of stones taken from the broch.

The area to be scheduled comprises the broch, associated remains and field wall and an area in which remains associated with their construction and use will survive. It is rectangular and measures 35m NNW-SSE by 45m ENE-WSW, with its western edge 30m from the centre of the main line of the field wall, all as marked in red on the attached map extract.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as one of the better surviving inland brochs with surrounding settlement in Orkney.

Site Number 109

Site Name North Howe, broch, Westside, Rousay

Type of Site SM1469
Listing No./NRHE Number SM1469

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337051

Northing 1030722

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a substantial broch mound dating probably from the Iron Age (between about 600 BC and AD 400). The broch mound is circular in plan, approximately 17m in diameter, and stands up to 2.5m high. The outer wall-face of the broch tower is visible for at least 10m around its NW side. The ground around the broch mound is unimproved and has an uneven surface, possibly indicating the presence of other buildings surrounding the broch tower. This area also includes the remains of a post-medieval farmstead. The broch mound is located on a slight rise some 60m from the coast, at 20m above sea level. It has extensive views to the S and SE towards Eynhallow Sound. The monument was first scheduled in 1935, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

## Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. This is an impressive and well-preserved example of a large broch mound in an exceptionally rich archaeological landscape. By analogy with excavated brochs in Orkney, this monument is likely to retain its structural characteristics to a marked degree and will have a complex development sequence: it may overlie earlier remains and will probably include evidence for later re-use of the site. Its importance is enhanced because it is one of three substantial brochs in close proximity along this stretch of coast in Rousay and there is high potential to study the relationship between them. The monument is also part of a wider landscape of prehistoric and early medieval remains in this part of Rousay, which contains an exceptional concentration of archaeological sites and is an important source of evidence for social and economic change in northern Scotland over several millennia. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and reuse of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Orkney and further afield. It would also be a significant loss from an exceptionally important archaeological landscape in Rousay.



References Bibliography

RCAHMS record the site as HY33SE 11.

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Ritchie, J. N. G. 1988, The Brochs of Scotland, Aylesbury: Shire.

Site Number 110

Site Name Vestra Fiold, enclosure, quarry and cairn 430m W of Hillcrest

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: enclosure (domestic or defensive, rather than ritual or fune

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1470

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323843

Northing 1021730

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric monolith quarry and a horned long cairn both dating to the Neolithic (probably third millennium BC) and a prehistoric enclosure dating probably to the late Neolithic or Bronze Age (late third to second millennium BC). The monument is located on the S-facing slope of Vestra Fiold Hill, at between 50m and 100m above sea level. It has extensive views in all southwards-facing directions.

The enclosure is irregular in form and measures approximately 275m E to W by up to 300m transversely. The turf-covered enclosure bank is built of earth and stone with edge-set stones at irregular intervals. In the centre of the enclosure is a low mound approximately 4m in diameter with two edge-set slabs visible. The prehistoric quarry is located NE of the enclosure and comprises a series of quarry faces trending WSW-ENE from which monoliths have been quarried, together with associated evidence for their working and transportation; at least five monoliths are still present on the site. The long cairn, located NE of the quarry, is visible as a low elongated oval mound of earth and stone. It measures approximately 22.5m NE-SW by 15m transversely and stands up to 1.5m high with horns on its NE façade. Animal bone from its construction levels has been radiocarbon dated to between 2800 and 2500 BC. The monument was first scheduled in 1940, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.



The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and areas around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of prehistoric Orkney, specifically, prehistoric monolith quarrying, the construction and use of enclosures and burial monuments, and prehistoric ceremony and ritual. The quarry, with cut monoliths still present, supplied stones for both the Ring of Brodgar and the Stones of Stenness, connecting it to these two exceptionally important components of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. The horned cairn is of unusual construction and appears to be broadly contemporary with the quarry and, therefore, the stone circles in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. The unusual enclosure survives to a marked degree. Its diagnostic bank is clearly visible around most of the circuit and has produced significant quantities of cramp, perhaps indicative of ritual or funerary activities. The multi-phase and multi-purpose elements of this site indicate that this was a significant place for the communities of prehistoric Orkney. Its position in the landscape and the low impact of subsequent land-use mean that important archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits and features are highly likely to be preserved. Our understanding of the form and function of prehistoric enclosures, monolith quarries and burial monuments would be diminished if this site was to be lost or damaged.

References Bibliography Other Information

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References

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Site Number 111

Site Name Tingwall, broch and mound 90m W of Tingwall House

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch; settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1473

Status Scheduled Monument



Easting 340123

Northing 1022874

Parish Evie And Rendal

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a substantial broch mound with the remains of a surrounding rampart to the W, together with another circular mound some 40m to the ENE. The broch mound dates probably from the Iron Age (between about 600 BC and AD 400). The origin and date of the mound to the E is unclear, but both it and the adjacent broch mound may have formed part of a 'thing' site (assembly place) in the Norse period. The monument stands 10m above sea level on the S side of a deeply eroded gully containing an unnamed burn which flows into Tingwall harbour some 150m to the ENE. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The broch mound is grass-grown, roughly circular in shape, measuring about 20m in diameter and standing around 2.3m in height. It sits on an irregular platform which has hollows derived from guarrying around the S and W sides. Stones and possible structural stonework are visible SW of the main mound and in the hollows, suggesting the location of external buildings associated with the broch. Masonry fragments were visible in the earlier 20th century and were considered to represent stone buildings of considerable extent and complexity. The rampart encircling the W side of the broch is represented by a stone and earth bank spread up to 4m wide and standing 1m high. A small archaeological trench excavated on the N slope of the broch mound revealed stone paving, interpreted as the floor of a structure lying outside the main broch tower. The mound to the E lies at the ENE end of a low natural ridge extending between and conjoining the two features. This second mound measures about 15m in diameter and is not as high as the broch mound. The Old Norse place-name 'Thing-völlr' (meaning 'thing-field': now Tingwall) first occurs in the 12th-century Orkneyinga Saga and was also recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1879-80.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it can make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society and economy in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. The broch mound is large and impressive and, although it has seen some disturbance, the lower courses of the broch are expected to survive in good condition. The mound is expected to contain the remains of numerous structural features typical of brochs, including intramural stairs and cells, together with buried deposits rich in occupation debris, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence. In addition, there is good evidence for the presence of stone structures outside the broch tower, in the form of visible remains, historic accounts of the site and the findings of a small archaeological test pit that revealed a well-preserved paved floor. The broch mound also has the potential to inform our knowledge about the use of such sites subsequently, perhaps showing that the site continued to be a societal focal point in the Norse and later periods. Specifically, it can enhance our understanding of Viking and Norse 'thing' sites, of which very few potential examples have been identified in Orkney. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and re-use of brochs, the placing and function of brochs and related settlement types within the landscape and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy, both in Orkney and further afield. Loss of the monument would also significantly diminish our ability to understand the organisation and functioning of 'thing' sites in Orkney and governance in the Norse period.

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References

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Site Number 112

Site Name Verron Broch

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1474

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331845

Northing 1029895

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a broch mound dating probably from the Iron Age (between 600 BC and AD 400). The mound is roughly circular in plan and comprises a platform measuring approximately 20m in diameter, which stands 0.7m high, with a mound atop the platform, 11m in diameter, which stands a further 1m high. The mound has been eroded by the sea and only about half of it survives. The mound is visible in cross-section in the eroding cliff face, including walling and upright slabs. Several hollows on the surface of the mound indicate that it has seen some investigation in the past. Traces of a defensive ditch and bank are visible around the mound. Between the broch and the ditch, the ground is very uneven and stony, indicating the presence of a broch village and/or later settlement around the tower. The mound is located in an area of pasture, with rig and furrow visible in the field surrounding the broch. The broch is located on the coast at about 5m above sea level. It has extensive views in all directions, but especially to the N and E over Eynhallow Sound. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's use and re-use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs and related settlement. The monument offers considerable potential to study the relationship between the broch and its defensive outworks, and to examine any associated settlement. Despite the erosion, by analogy with excavated brochs in Orkney, the surviving part of this monument is likely to retain its structural characteristics to a marked degree and may demonstrate a complex development sequence: it may overlie earlier remains and will probably include evidence for contemporary extra-mural and later re-use of the site. The monument's importance is enhanced by its association with the wider landscape of Iron Age brochs and prehistoric settlement in Orkney, and by its location in an area of Orkney which is particularly rich in well-preserved brochs. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development and reuse of brochs in Orkney.

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Ritchie, J. N. G. 1988, The Brochs of Scotland, Aylesbury: Shire.

Site Number 113

Site Name Verron, broch, platform and cultivation rigs, N of Bay of Skaill

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch; platform, Secular: field system

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1475

Status Scheduled Monument

Description

Easting 323129

Northing 1019764

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description

The monument comprises the remains of an Iron Age broch and outer enclosure, a nearby platform which may represent a settlement site, and an area of medieval or early modern cultivation rigs.

The broch survives as a hollow-centred mound standing to some 2m above the surrounding ground level. On the SW side there is an eroding area at the head of the cliffs, in which up to 1m of Iron Age midden and masonry is visible, but the main structure of the broch appears not to have suffered to any great extent. About 25m away from the centre of the mound a line of large earthfast stones is visible, protruding through the turf, and curving on an arc roughly concentric with the broch. This may represent the former line of an outer enclosure. About 30m beyond this, in an ESE direction from the broch, is a low rectangular platform. This is grass-covered and measures about 15m across by at least 20m long, elongated NNE-SSW. This may be the remains of a settlement, and the fact that it is respected by the extensive and well-preserved cultivation rigs which occupy the area between the cliffs and the fence some 50m-70m to the N suggests that it is earlier than this cultivation episode. The rigs themselves are an unusual survival in Orkney, and date to a period before the early 19th-century agricultural improvements.

The area to be scheduled is a considerable extension on the small area protected around the broch since 1940. The area now to be scheduled includes the broch, the outer line of stones, the platform and an area of cultivation rigs, all as described above. It is bounded on the N by a modern fence (which is excluded) and on the NW, W, SW and S by the top edge of the coastal cliffs. The boundary on the E is not defined by any physical landmark. This area measures a maximum of 155m E-W by a maximum of 70m N-S and is shown in red on the accompanying map.



Site Number 114

Site Name Viera Lodge, broch, Frotoft

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1476/HY32NE 12
Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 339179

Northing 1028102

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2162

HY32NE 12 3916 2808. (HY 3915 2808) Brough (NR)

From Canmore record:

OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

This probable broch has been greatly eroded by the sea, and the remains are obscured by grass and by the construction of a retaining wall on the seaward side. It is impossible to estimate the diameter of the structure but the walls were probably at least 12 ft thick. There is clear evidence of occupation on the cultivated land to the N and in the park close to the house. RCAHMS 1946.

The site of this probable broch is marked by an amorphous grassy knoll with no artificial features visible. Scarping of the natural slope to the N at HY 3917 2812 could be associated with this structure, but is probably modern because of its sharpness of profile and general appearance. There is no trace of buildings to the N.

Visited by OS (RL) 10 June 1967. (HY 3917 2808) Broch (NR) (site of)

OS 1:2500 map, 1976.

Now a shapeless overgrown knoll; the sea wall that has protected this site is falling away, revealing some stonework.

Visited by R G Lamb, 1979.

RCAHMS 1982

Publication Account (2002) Euan W Mackie Broch Corpus 1 HY32 9 VIERA LODGE

HY/392281

Possible broch close to the shore on Rousay I., consisting of a few scattered grass-grown remains much eroded by the sea. One estimate puts the wall thickness at 3.7 m (12 ft.). By 1979 the sea wall which was protecting the site was falling away, revealing some stonework [3]. Sources: 1. OS card HY 32 NE 12: 2. RCAHMS 1946, 2, no. 556, 201-2: 3. Lamb 1982, 22.

E W MacKie 2002

Orkney Smr Note

Close to shore immediately W of Viera Lodge, a structure most probably a broch, the greater part lost by erosion. Remains grassed, on sea side obscured by retaining wall, little identifiable masonry visible. Diameter indeterminate but walls at least 12ft thick. On the cultivated land to the N and in the park close to the house there is clear evidence of occupation. [R1] Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

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Site Number 115

Site Name

Vinquin, broch, 145m SSW of Upper Arsdale

Type of Site

Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1477

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332697

Northing 1028299

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a broch mound dating probably to the Iron Age (between about 600 BC and AD 400). This substantial broch mound is flat-topped and circular in plan. It is approximately 19m in diameter and stands up to 1.8m high. The broch tower has been partly excavated in the past and part of the internal wall-face and an intramural cell are exposed in the top of the mound. An external ditch and bank are visible around the mound, but have been partly obscured by previous quarrying of the site. Between the broch tower and the surrounding ditch, quarrying has revealed upright slabs, indicating the possible presence of a broch village around the tower. The broch mound is located in an area of improved ground partly enclosed by a drystone wall, which is associated with an abandoned farmstead located just N of the broch mound. The broch is located on the summit of Vinguin Hill at about 100m above sea level. It has extensive views in all directions but especially to the N and E, over Eynhallow Sound and towards Rousay. The monument was first scheduled in 1936, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The scheduled area is circular on plan, 70m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. The monument offers considerable potential to study the relationship between the broch tower and its surrounding ditch, as well as any surrounding buildings and associated archaeological remains. By analogy with excavated brochs in Orkney, Vinquin broch is likely to retain its structural characteristics to a marked degree and to have a complex development sequence: it may overlie earlier remains and will probably include evidence for later re-use of the site. It is highly likely to contain occupation debris rich in artefacts, ecofacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The monument's importance is enhanced by its unusual hilltop location and its association with the wider landscape of Iron Age brochs and settlement in Orkney, including Mid Howe and the other



brochs on the SW coast of Rousay. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development and use of brochs in Orkney.

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Ritchie, J. N. G. 1988, The Brochs of Scotland. Aylesbury: Shire.

Site Number 116

Site Name Peter's Kirk, church, burial ground and broch N of Outer Urrigar

Type of Site Ecclesiastical: burial ground, cemetery, graveyard; chapel; church, Prehistoric domestic and def

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1483

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 333761

Northing 1028691

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of the remains of a small church beside a burial ground, both overlying

a ruined prehistoric settlement, almost certainly an Iron Age broch.

The ecclesiastical remains sit 4m from the edge of a low cliff. The church was bicameral, with a rectangular nave 8m by 7m externally and a rectangular chancel 4.9m by 5m externally. The

walls are much reduced, but a date in the 13th or early 14th century is suggested. Underneath the church and burial ground, and revealed in the coastal section by marine erosion, is an extensive settlement of Iron Age date, consisting of a broch with extensive external settlement.

The area to be scheduled is irregular in plan, bounded on the NNE by the top of a low coastal cliff and by existing fences elsewhere. It measures a maximum of 72m WNW-ESE by 32m, to include the church, burial ground and the estimated extent of the prehistoric settlement, as marked in red on the accompanying map. Modern fences are excluded.

Site Number 117



Site Name Nether Benzieclett, farmstead, Skeabrae

Type of Site Secular: barn; farmstead; house

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1488

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 328051

Northing 1020593

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of a traditional Orkney farmstead, occupied probably from the 18th century to the 1940s. The farmstead comprises two roofless buildings orientated roughly NE-SW and surviving to wall-head height, together with their fixtures and fittings, and associated yards to the N and S. The monument is situated on gradually sloping, improved agricultural land at about 15m above OD, 1km N of the Loch of Harray.

The NE range is a stone-built longhouse, measuring approximately 28m SW-NE by a maximum of 6m transversely. It was originally divided into three main units, comprising a byre at the E end, a kitchen or 'fire-house' in the middle (with remnants of a box-bed in an alcove projecting to the N) and a chamber or 'sellar' at the W end. Other surviving internal features include shelves and ironwork associated with a substantial fireplace. A byre and store-room were added to the W end during the second half of the 19th century, initially as a separate unit and then adjoined to the main building by 1923. The SW range measures approximately 32m NE-SW by 5.5m transversely and is subdivided from E to W into a cart shed, a byre with flagstone stalls on the N elevation, a stall or store, and a horse mill with horse gin to the S. Ordnance Survey maps suggest that the mill and stall are roughly contemporary with the earlier elements of the NE range. The byre and cart shed appear to be later additions. Both ranges are positioned along the SE side of a rectangular field or yard, some 0.3 hectares in area, enclosed by drystone walls; and there is evidence of a smaller yard immediately to the S of the NE range. A small detached concrete military structure immediately S of the longhouse dates probably from World War 2. The monument was first scheduled in 1955, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment may survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences to allow for their maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the origins, form, construction, development and use of rural vernacular buildings and the changes in land-use and agricultural practices that took place in Orkney during the early modern period. The NE range at Nether Benzieclett is a particularly well-preserved example of its type, displaying the characteristic layout of a traditional vernacular Orkney longhouse, with easily traceable later alterations and additions. The form of the buildings is comparable with that of Norse longhouses and farmsteads known in the Northern Isles and across the North Atlantic area. The farmstead retains many of its key characteristics to a marked degree, including its overall layout and many of its internal fixtures and fittings, such as the box-bed alcove. Previous research and survey of Nether Benzieclett has established its origins and development. The likely survival of artefacts and environmental evidence within and around the farm buildings and yards has considerable potential to add to our understanding of the agricultural basis of the farmstead and the lives of its inhabitants. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to understand the development of agricultural settlement and farming practices, and the form and function of rural vernacular architecture in Orkney and further afield from the Norse period to the 20th century.

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Edinburgh, 250, no 675.

Site Number 118

Site Name Bridge of Scuan, bridge, 350m NNE of Scuan

Type of Site Secular: bridge

Listing No./NRHE Number SM1489

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332073

Northing 1018841

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a stone-built bridge, its approaches and a date-inscribed stone. The monument was first scheduled in 1953, but the documentation neither locates the bridge correctly nor describes the scheduled area with sufficient precision to protect all of the monument: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The monument comprises the crossing of an ancient track or roadway over a westward-flowing burn and consists of three components: a bridge; splayed, crudely revetted, approaches on either side of the burn; and a dressed stone, inscribed with the date 1694, forming part of the bridge construction. The bridge, measuring approximately 7.5m by 3.2m, spans the burn in two vaults supported by a central pier. On the eastern side, the bridge is of clapper construction; the earthen roadway of the bridge is supported by horizontal slabs resting on pillars of horizontally bedded masonry that form the abutments and the central pier. On its western side, the bridge consists of a double arch, providing clearance to a maximum height of approximately 0.6m above the burn bed. Each arch springs from the rubble-supported burn bank. The arches abut the central pier with the point of contact being in each case, the angled surface of a single, triangular block, which forms the core of the pier. The masonry above the arches is horizontally bedded. It is clear from the point of contact between these two constructions that the western arches are primary. In general the masonry is rough-hewn and lacks mortar. The approaches on both sides of the bridge are much disturbed by cattle but survive as converging lines of stonework forming the kerbing for the road or track; there are additional skins of masonry close to the bridge abutments on the eastern side. The latter probably function as protection when the burn is in spate. The dated stone was moved to its present position, or was placed back in its original position, over the southern span on the eastern side of the bridge, in the 20th century. It may not date a construction phase of the bridge. Its eastern face, measuring 0.8m by 0.17m, has been carved with two full-face heads, between which is set the inscription: 'IL 1694'. The stone is now embedded in, and forms part of the eastern border to, the earthen road surface carried by the bridge masonry. The area to be scheduled is a circle of diameter 35m centred on the centre of the bridge, to include all components of the bridge including the revetted approaches and the inscribed stone, as marked in red on the accompanying map extract. The post and wire fence to the north of the bridge is excluded from scheduling to allow for its maintenance.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved dry-stone bridge which displays two discrete phases and styles of construction and which once functioned as part of a now relict rural road system. The significance of the monument is enhanced by the presence, within



the present fabric of the bridge, of a stone inscribed with the date 1694, initials and two carved faces. The stone cannot, however, provide unequivocal dating evidence for any particular phase of construction, use or ownership of the bridge, but it would not be unreasonable to infer from its presence that the bridge was in existence in the late 17th century.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY31NW 60. The monument is listed as No 122 in the Orkney Inventory where the dated stone is described as possibly derived from elsewhere.

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RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3V, Edinburgh, 36.

Site Number 119

Site Name Marwick, Norse settlement 500m WNW of West Howe

Type of Site Secular: Viking settlement, Norse settlement; domestic buildings; midden

Listing No./NRHE Number SM2884

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 322884

Northing 1023991

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is the remains of an extensive settlement containing buildings that can be dated to the Norse period (about AD 800-1300). The remains of the settlement are visible in the eroding coastline and archaeological recording of the exposed deposits has revealed several structural phases, plus occupation surfaces and layers indicating levelling and abandonment. In addition, geophysical survey has provided evidence for buried archaeological features in fields E of the track. The monument lies on the SE shore of Mar Wick bay at about 5m above sea level, overlooking the foreshore. The monument was scheduled in 1970, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this. The remains exposed at the shoreline include the walls of stone-founded buildings and stonebuilt drains, together with midden deposits of burnt soil, animal bones and shells. Archaeological recording of the exposed deposits has revealed several structural phases, plus occupation surfaces and layers indicating levelling and abandonment. It is clear that the remains indicate a multi-phase settlement of considerable complexity. To the E, a low, crescent-shaped mound lies about 12m inland, is aligned E-W and measures about 20m long and 1.5m high. A low, undated structure is visible on its surface. The buried archaeological remains indicated by geophysical survey cover an area measuring about 185m NNE-SSW by 65m transversely, extending a maximum of 85m inland from the shore. The form and nature of the geophysical responses are consistent with domestic settlement activity. Individual geophysical anomalies can be interpreted as representing walls, ditches and structures, with some features potentially representing buildings dating as far back as the Bronze Age (c 2500-800 BC). Later activity is represented by six boat nousts at the S end of the scheduled area. The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences and drystone boundary walls, as well as the top 200mm of the deposits forming the track along the shore.



### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it can make a significant contribution to our understanding of settlement and economy in Norse period Orkney. The midden remains exposed at the shoreline demonstrate the presence of artefactual and ecofactual remains that can date the settlement and inform study of the economy, diet and trading contacts of the inhabitants. Important structural remains of longhouses and drains are also evident, and can tell us about building form and development. Although parts of the settlement are exposed to coastal erosion, geophysical survey has confirmed that archaeological deposits are varied and extensive, continue inland away from the immediate threat of damage, and have high potential to support future archaeological research. The monument's significance is further enhanced by its association with a nearby chapel and enclosure, suggesting that this may represent a Norse pairing of settlement and ecclesiastical centre. If this monument was to be lost or damaged, it would diminish our understanding of the distribution, character and economy of Norse settlements in Scotland.

References **Bibliography** Other Information

RCAHMS records the monument as HY22SW 30

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120 Site Number

Site Name Marwick, chapel, burial ground and enclosure 595m NNW of West Howe

**Type of Site** Ecclesiastical: burial ground, cemetery, graveyard; chapel; enclosure

Listing No./NRHE Number SM2934

Scheduled Monument **Status** 

**Easting** 323023 **Northing** 1024106

**Parish** Birsay And Harray Orkney Islands Council Description

Description

The monument comprises the remains of a small rectangular stone-built chapel dating from the later Norse period (around 12th century AD), a surrounding burial ground enclosed by a rectilinear bank, and an outer, possibly earlier, curvilinear enclosure identified through geophysical survey. The chapel is visible as a low turf-covered mound; earlier excavation has exposed its internal wall faces. The shore of Mar Wick lies less than 100m to the W of the chapel, and the buried remains of an important Norse settlement extend to within about 80m of the chapel to the SW. The monument was first scheduled in 1970, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The chapel is aligned approximately WSW-ENE and measures around 8m by 7m externally and



5m by 4m internally. The interior of the chapel was excavated in the early 20th century, revealing the footings and internal faces of the walls, which were rubble-built and reportedly clay-mortared. The burial ground is defined by a low bank that is clearly visible on the ground surface on the SW side, and which was visible to the N and NE in the early 20th century. Most of the bank was re-located by geophysical survey in 2008/9, indicating that the burial ground measures about 25m WSW-ENE. The curvilinear outer enclosure is not visible on the ground surface, but most of its northern half has been identified by geophysical survey, indicating that it measures at least 50m across.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 90m in diameter, and is centred on the middle of the chapel as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved example of a Norse chapel and possibly earlier church site. It has high potential to add significantly to our understanding of the establishment, development and changing character of places of worship in the Norse period. It can enhance our understanding of the origins of early ecclesiastical centres and places of worship, and their relationship with contemporary secular sites. Study of this site in comparison with similar pairings of Norse churches and settlements can add to our understanding of changes in politics, society and religion in the Orkney earldom. The loss of the monument would impede our ability to understand the establishment and development of churches and chapels in Orkney and further afield, and their role in Norse society.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS record the site as HY22SW 27. The adjacent Norse settlement is scheduled separately as SM 2884.

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Site Number 121

Site Name Westness, Viking houses, noost & graveyard

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cist, Secular: Viking settlement, Norse settlement

Listing No./NRHE Number SM3534/HY32NE 32/HY32NE 7/HY32NE 17

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337626 Northing 1029296

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands



Description

From Canmore ID: 2184/HY32NE 32

HY32NE 32 3766 2928

See also HY32NE 7 and HY32NE 17.

At HY 3766 2928 the Norwegians excavators of the nearby Viking graves (HY32NE 7) have uncovered the remains of two rectangular drystone buildings, one apparently overlying the other. According to local information, the excavators believe this to be a Viking boat noust, but the quality of the building suggests that it may be a later house. Excavation report pending. (See S H H Kaland 1973).

Surveyed at 1/2500.

Visited by OS (AA) 10 October 1972.

This noust [naust] was situated (for shelter) on the E side of Moaness and oriented NW-SE. It was shown by excavation to measure 4.5m in breadth but had been reduced by marine erosion to a length of no more than 8m. It was dug into the sand, had an inner stone wall, and was apparently large enough to house two small boats or a ship.

S H H Kaland 1993.

### Orkney Smr Note (September 1980)

On E side of Moaness a reclangular naust, aligned NE-SW, 10m x 5m, two-period. Its second phase is quite like a modern Orkney naust, the erlier period being a substantial building. A few rivets found. [R1]

Presumably related to nearby Norse settlement. - see OR 534.

'Norwegians have uncovered remains of two rectangular drystone buildings one apparently overlying the other. According to local information the excavators believe this to be a Viking naust, but quality of building suggests it may be a later house.'

OS visit Oct 82.

Now backfilled.

Information from Orkney SMR (RGL) Sep 1980.

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From Canmore ID:2204/HY32NE 7

### HY32NE 7 3759 2932

See also HY32NE 3, HY32NE 4, HY32NE 17 and HY32NE 32.

For 1963 discovery of Viking burial at HY 382 289, see HY32NE 44.

HY 375 293. At the end of October 1963 a Viking woman's grave was found whilst digging a hole to bury a cow. The site was on a low promontory on the SW side of the island, probably near where two Viking graves were found in 1826. (For which, see also HY32NE 3 and HY32NE 4).

The farm manager recovered two early-mid 9th Century tortoise brooches, a zoomorphic Celtic brooch datable to c. 750 A D, a bronze mount and some human bones, which were sent to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS) by the land-owners, Mr and Mrs Scarth. Further investigation of the site on behalf of the museum showed that the grave had been entirely disturbed, but the rest of the skeleton and part of a baby's skeleton, about 40 beads, a bone comb, fragments of a bronze bowl, other bronze mounts, and pieces of iron implements were recovered. The sides of the grave of which there were no surface indications, had probably been built of slabs laid horizontally.

A S Henshall 1963.



The site of the Viking grave, marked by two upright stones erected by the land-ower, was pointed out by the finder, Mr Flett, at HY 3759 2933. Visited by OS (NKB), 11 June 1967.

The excavation of the Viking site at Westness by the Norsk Arkeologisk Selskap revealed a complete grave of a Viking warrior.

D M Wilson and D G Hurst 1971.

The grave referred to by Wilson and Hurst was situated only a few yards from the woman's grave at HY 3759 2933. Measuring c. 2 1/2 by 1 1/4 yds and faced with stone slabs, it contained the complete skeleton of a very large man who had been buried with his shield, the boss of which was in good condition and datable to the early 10th century. The grave also contained 23 objects which appear to be dice for some sort of game. Miss Sigrid Hansen, of Oslo University, in charge of the excavation, said it would appear that after the man had been buried, a woman and some animals were sacrificed on the top of the grave. Glasgow Herald 10 August 1968.

Students from Bergen and Oslo Universities, completing their third season of excavations at this site, have uncovered a third grave, the nature of which is indeterminate as it has been disturbed by rabbits and only leg and foot bones have so far been found. There is the possibility of a fourth grave.

Glasgow Herald 4 August 1969; S Kaland and H Hansen 1973.

There is conflicting local opinion concerning the number of graves found here to date. It is expected that further excavations will proceed in the summer of 1973 but until an excavation report is published nothing positive can be added to the newspaper accounts. Three areas of excavation, partly re-turfed, are visible immediately S of the 1963 find which is on a slight rise surrounded, but apparently not encroached upon, by weathered rig and furrow cultivation. Visited by OS (AA), 10 October 1972.

Further excavation of this Viking cemetery has exposed 32 graves as well as earlier foundations. Excavation of a boat-grave produced a male skeleton with weapons and tools. 5 oval graves nearby contained weapons, jewellery and tools, and other graves were of children. C14 dating places the cemetery in the 9th century. S H H Kaland 1980.

Excavation of the Westness cemetery has revealed both Pictish and Viking graves of varying types, both with and without grave-goods. Radiocarbon assay indicates use from the 7th to the 9th centuries AD and skeletal analysis indicates that the remains comprise the whole community; a wide range of pathological conditions is indicated in a population aged up to fifty and measuring up to 1.7m in height. The graves were not identifiable on the surface but apparently had headstones or similar grave-markers at the time of use; the Vikings evidently respected the graves of the native population.

The Pictish burials were unaccompanied by grave-goods and laid extended in narrow and shallow trench-graves, some of which were wholly or partially slab-lined.

The Viking graves were rectangular or oval in form. The oval graves were slab-lined and possibly also slab-covered while the lining-stone behind the head was a taller 'stemstone'. Grave-goods varied with the status of the individual and included weapons (sword, axe, spear and arrows), shield-bosses, jewellery, tools (including sickles and adzes) and weaving implements.

Two boat-graves (measuring 5.5m and 4.5m in length respectively) were recognised from their rivet-patterns and decayed outline-stains; they were evidently three- or four-strake vessels of faering form and clinkered-oak construction. The boat from grave II had a rowlock of deer antler on the gunwale and a 'vadbein' of deer antler for the fishing-line on the other gunwale. In each case the burial was formed by placing the vessel in a hole in the ground and stabilising it externally with stones and clay before forming a midships burial-chamber by infilling the bow and stern with stones. Each boat contained the extended inhumation of a battle-scarred male accompanied by tools and weapons; swords, shields, axes and arrows in each case with a spear in one of them. Both burials contained farming tools (including adze and sickle); one also had a hone and a strike-a-light, and the other a fishing weight and bone comb.

A boat-shaped slab-setting was also found on the edge of the beach; it was evidently



unfinished and unused. S H H Kaland 1993.

HY 376 293 An area of c 1ha adjacent to the previously excavated cemetery at Westness, Rousay, was subjected to geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. The objective was to investigate potential archaeological deposits recently revealed by coastal erosion, to investigate the presence/absence of further burials or features associated with the cemetery, and to define the limits of the previous excavation trenches more closely.

Those deposits seen in the erosion face proved to be superficial and did not extend inland. Elsewhere, with one exception, trial trenching indicated that no substantial deposits survived outwith the previous excavation area. One trench, which was situated at the southern tip of the promontory upon which the site lies, uncovered parts of a human skull accompanied by a fragment of bone comb. This was interpreted as a disturbed burial, probably of Viking date. Sponsors: Historic Scotland, Orkney Archaeological Trust.

G Wilson and H Moore 1997.

### Orkney Smr Note

Viking-Age grave was found 1963 with a oair of oval brooches, a Celtic brooch of extremely fine workmanship, bronze mounts, forty beads, fragments of a bronze bowl and a bone comb. The penannular brooch is of the highest quality: it is of silver, inlaid with gold panels, decorated with zoomorphic designs in filigree, and has studs of glass and amber.

[R1]

Grave containing female skeleton with two bronze tortoise-brooches [ AD 800-850], silver Celtic brooch with gold filigree cAD 750 Irish] and decorative bronze-gilt panel from book cover or reliquary. Found by J Flett, Westness Farm, in burying a cow. Grave (and cow) subsequently re-excavated by A S Henshall.

[R2]

Information from Orkney SMR [n.d.]

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From Canmore ID: 2167/HY32NE 17

#### HY32NE 17 3754 2964

See also HY32NE 3, HY32NE 4, HY32NE 7, HY32NE 32, HY32NE 44.

The great Norse Hall at Westness, which had been uncovered for several years, was planned in 1962 and shown to be over 100' long by c. 30' wide. Two periods were established. The building was originally a long- hall with stone-faced walls of turf set on the flat peaty soil behind the storm beach and with the outer end running up the rear slope of this beach. The building closely resembled the two great halls at Birsay, which were destroyed in the mid-11th century, but is better preserved. The second stage had a substantial rectangular building, possibly a tower, at one end, while the rest of the dwelling was rebuilt with thinner walls of drystone which might be no more than a sill course. Constructional analogies suggest that this stage belongs to the 12th c. The site was in the 12th century connected with the chieftain Sigurd of Westness and there can be little doubt that the dwelling was the hall of his ancestors. C A R Radford 1962; D M Wilson and D G Hurst 1965.

The hall, at HY 3754 2964, was excavated by Radford two or three years ago. It is situated on a sandy storm beach near the shore. The visible remains are at least 18.0m long by 4.8m wide between walls 1.0m - 1.3m thick and up to 0.8m high.

Excavations and ground disturbance suggest the existence of further structures in the vicinity. Surveyed at 1:2500.

### Visited by OS (NKB) 12 June 1967.

Students from Oslo and Bergen Universities, led by Mrs Sigrid Kaland are just completing their third season of excavations at this site and at HY32NE 7. This Norse farmhouse includes a long hall 15m long, with walls 1.0m thick and paving slabs laid outside. At one end are the remains of several smaller rooms still to be explored.

It is not yet datable other than late Viking - early medieval, but it is believed that there may be the foundations of an earlier house under the building being excavated at present. Pottery found appears to be later than Viking, but other items suggest an earlier occupation. As well as knives and pieces of iron, the excavators have found soapstone cooking pots.

Several more visits will be required to complete the excavations, after which it is hoped to hand over the site to the D o E.

It is unlikely that there is any direct connection between this farmhouse and the graves described on HY32NE 7.

Glasgow Herald 4 August 1969; S H H Kaland 1973.

A further excavation is planned for 1973.

Survey revised at 1:2500.

Visited by OS (AA) 10 October 1972.

Westness is situated on the W side of Rousay and is known for its cemetery (HY32NE 7) besides being mentioned in the Orkneyinga Saga as the place of the kidnapping of Earl Paul.

Archaeological survey and excavation have recorded a Viking farmstead close to the shore; this



comprises two parallel longhouses, House I (a dwelling-house) and House II (which comprises two smaller houses set together to the S). The houses were set NE-SW across the sandy beach for shelter and the area between them was paved with slabs.

House I was nearly 35m long and between 6.5m and 7m broad with two large halls and a smaller room between; secondary walls indicated rebuilding during the period of use. The N hall measured 15m in length and was entered from the E; there were earth-filled benches along the walls and a stone-lined fireplace in the middle. The S hall measured 10m in length and had a curved entrance in the W long wall to protect it against the prevailing wind; the paved entrance led towards the central paved pathway. Artifacts from the house included fragments of knives, soapstone sherds, bone pins, combs and pottery with animal bones and carbonised seeds.

House II was 15m long and between 5m and 5.5m broad with the long walls curving inwards at their extremities; the doorway (in the N corner) opened on to a paved sunken pathway about 0.5m wide. This was evidently a byre with room for about 18 cows and edging-stones forming the benches on each side of the pathway. House III was a sheep-byre measuring 5m square and had a paved floor sloping down to a ditch on the E; there was a similar ditch on the W and the two ditches met in the corner where there was a narrow passageway.

Excavation of the farmstead has revealed carbonised barley, rye and flax while pollen analysis has indicated the cultivation of barley, rye and oats nearby. Bone evidence indicates the exploitation of seabirds (presumably from the nearby cliffs of Scabra Head), grouse, whale, seal, deer, otter and fish (mostly cod and ling). Fishing sinkers and 'vadbein' were also found. S H H Kaland 1993.

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Site Number 122

Site Name Westness Church

Type of Site Ecclesiastical: church

Listing No./NRHE Number SM3626/HY33SE 16

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337374

Northing 1030173

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 2281

From Canmore record:

Desk Based Assessment (1970)



Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme

HY33SE 16 37364 30174 (HY 3735 3017) Church (NR) (remains of) OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

A roofless, single-chambered post-Reformation building with crowstepped gables, built mainly of rubble from the shore and bedded in clay. It measures 52 ft 11 ins E-W by 14 ft 3 ins transversely within walls 2 ft 6 ins wide at the sides, 3 ft and 3 ft 8 ins at the ends and standing 10 ft high. There has been a gallery at the W end, the joist holes being still visible. The S wall contains the entrance, three windows and an aumbry regarded by Dryden as a holy water stoup (D MacGibbon and T Ross 1896). An internal scarcement or footing running along the W half of the N wall and across the W gable, and a ledge on the inside of the E gable suggest that the existing church has replaced an earlier one standing in the same position.

In the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS) are two panels of Scots pine from the church. The older one, 23 ins high and 9 1/4 ins broad, has the date 1622 and a monogram of the initials R B and I S in relief; the other, 22 1/2 ins by 9 1/4 ins, has the date 1798 and the initials A M and I M crudely incised.

Source: RCAHMS 1946, visited 1929.

Field Visit (10 October 1972)

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Revision Programme This church is as described and planned. The burial ground is no longer in use. Visited by OS (AA) 10 October 1972.

#### Field Visit (1979)

St Mary's Church: Also referred to as 'Swandro Church', 'Westside Church', 'Westness Church' or 'Skaill Church', this is the shell of the former parish church of Rousay, abandoned in 1815 (when the present church was built at HY 4422 2779), probably comprising post-Reformation fabric on medieval foundations. Architectural fragments are built into the walls and at Trumland House (see HY33SE 17.01). In spite of buttresses provided by General Burroughs late in the 19th century, the building is moving down the slope and is structurally threatened. RCAHMS 1982 (Visited by R G Lamb 1979).

Sources: The Orcadian (H Dryden) 22 August 1871; Name Book 1880; L Dietrichson 1906; H Marwick 1924

Field Visit (June 2017) HES Skaill Farm Survey Swandro Church

The old parish church at Swandro stands within a small burial ground some 500m W of the public road and 1.4km NNW of the farm at Westness, and immediately SW of the medieval tower and hall known as 'the Wirk' (HY33SE 17). The current building is generally ascribed to the post-Reformation period, more specifically the late 16th or early 17th century (Lowe 1984, 1). It was apparently abandoned in 1815 when a new parish church was constructed at Brinian (RCAHMS 1982, 26; HY42NW 45). A well that may have been related to the church, known as Marywell, stands about 130m to the NNW. This description of the church is limited to a brief summary of the previous work and a note of new observations based on a new measured survey and photographic record.

The first detailed record of the church was made in September 1870 by the antiquary Henry Dryden, whose notes and drawings were published some 26 years later (Macgibbon and Ross 1896, v1, 108-9; copies made by William Galloway are held within the NRHE). Though there is no explicit statement discussing phasing, his description records that 'but for the stoup near the door, and apparently an aumbry near the east end' the building might be assigned to the post-Reformation period. Dryden's survey recorded details now obscured by buttressing erected at some time between 1870 and the survey for the 1st edition of the OS 25-inch map in 1879 (Orkney Sheet LXXXIX.4, 1882). That map shows the buttresses that support the gables, while a third buttress set against the S wall the doorway, maybe of the same date. A selection of the drawings was republished by Dietrichson and Meyer (1906, 105-9).

After their main visit in July 1929 RCAHMS described the church as clay-bonded and expanded on the tentative suggestion of two phases, noting that an internal footing along the W and N wall, combined with a ledge on the E gable 'rather suggests that the existing [post-



Reformation] church has replaced an earlier one standing in the same position' (1946, v1, 191). They also noted the former presence of a gallery in the W end, one definite aumbry by the entrance and another possible example in the N wall, and 'a built up window' in the middle of the N wall.

In August 1979 the church was included in an archaeological survey of Rousay and adjacent islands by Dr Raymond Lamb and the resulting report includes a lengthy discussion of the ecclesiastical buildings and the architectural fragments, noting for the first time that some were included within the church's fabric (RCAHMS 1982, 11). In May 1984 a more detailed survey of the church by Chris Lowe of the University of Durham (Lowe 1984b; 1984c) led to the assessment that the gallery was probably an insertion, with the W window, and that it had been reached by a timber stair fixed to additional joist holes in the N wall. He also identified further fragments of an earlier building, in particular a foundation course visible externally at the W gable, and noticed that lime had been used in the pointing of the later church. In addition to the observations noted above, which support the idea that there is an earlier phase of the church along much the same footprint, it is also possible to suggest that fragments of a smaller church or chapel are visible at the E end . Firstly, a straight joint is visible in the internal face of the N wall c.6m from the E gable (possibly the 'built up window' noted by RCAHMS). Secondly, a few broken stones in the internal plinth visible on the N wall at this point may be taken to suggest that a wall returned to the S, and this is coincident with a drop in the floor level from E to W of about 0.1m. Thirdly, there is a poorly defined horizontal joint or lift in the stonework, visible in the E part of the N wall, marked by a change in character some 1.7m above ground outside and 2.1m above the internal floor that runs from the gable to a position roughly in line with the internal straight joint. In the S wall, at a position opposite the straight joint, the masonry twists to the W on a vertical axis as if pivoting on a weak point in the foundations. Finally, a ragged former roof line in the internal face of the E gable suggests that it has been raised, and this lines up approximately with the horizontal joint just mentioned. Taken together these features suggest the presence of an earlier and smaller building at the E end of the present church, possibly a chancel.

### Post-reformation panels and tombstones

Two wooden panels from this church, one of the 17th and one of the 18th century, were donated to the National Museum of Scotland by the landowner W G Grant of Trumland in 1933 (PSAS 68, 16; RCAHMS 1946, v2, 191). Two heraldic tombstones, which were formally located at Swandro, one of 17th century date, are now located within the church at Brinian, already mentioned (RCAHMS 1946 No. 547).

### Architectural fragments

In 1870, Dryden mentioned 'some carved fragments of the red sandstone' then located at Westness (Macgibbon and Ross 1896, v1, 109) and RCAHMS included a description of 7 important fragments 'removed from the Wirk and the neighbourhood of the ruined church', which had by that time been moved to Trumland House (1946, No. 549). Some of these (Nos. 3 and 7) had been discovered during Storer Clouston's excavation of the Wirk (1931, 28, 32). Chris Lowe undertook a thorough reanalysis of the carved architectural fragments (and unworked stone) in 1984, which resulted in the publication of a catalogue of some 22 fragments from the church and 23 from the burial ground and its enclosing wall. Detailed drawings of two of the 16th century stones incorporated into the church (Lowe Nos. 119 and 126) were prepared during the present survey. That in the external wall of the E gable near the NE corner is a keeled trefoil moulding with hollow chamfers and outer roll to either side, probably from a window opening of a Gothic building of 13th century date. The moulding in the S wall near the SE corner is a larger filleted trefoil roll with two additional smaller rolls beyond and a hollow chamfer and quirk, part of which is broken off. In addition to these two, a third fragment which is built into the N wall near the NE corner is a quirked roll moulding of 16th century date. Further architectural fragments, one of which matches that in the E gable, were noted in the church yard and have been photographed.

The corpus of material includes stone ascribed to both the 13th and 16th centuries, and there is agreement that it is likely to have been brought into the site from an original site elsewhere (RCAHMS 1946; 1982; Lowe 1984c). The fragments built into the church include examples of 16th century work and, without further evidence coming to light, are still best explained as material brought into Westside from another location as builder's rubble (Lowe 1984), although it is possible that they are taken from an unfinished building at either the Wirk or the church site itself (Lamb 1982, 12).



Visited by HES (GFG, PJD, HS, SW) and William Wyeth 15-16 June 2017

#### References

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RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 190, No.548 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

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Site Number 123

Site Name The Wirk, tower and hall, Westness, Rousay

Type of Site Secular: hall; tower

Listing No./NRHE Number SM5773

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337407 Northing 1030184

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of the remains of a substantial medieval hall with a small square tower

attached.

The remains lie on both sides of the shore wall. On the seaward (W) side of the wall is the lower part of a small, square, tower. Its size and manner of construction suggests a late 12th-or early 13th- century date. The tower stands to a considerable height, but this is obscured by the built-up ground levels around it. Probably at least 3m tall, the interior has a doorway opening NE into an area choked with masonry: all below present external ground level. In the field to the E of the shore wall the foundations of a substantial hall- like dwelling have been located, extending a total of 23m. Both the tower and the hall have been excavated in part, and the excavator of the hall suggested it was not earlier than the 16th century: this may not be accurate, in view of the fact that the attached tower is so convincingly earlier.

The area to be scheduled is irregular on plan, consisting of an area 50m by 50m in the field to the E of the shore wall and an area 15m by 15m in the field to the W. The above ground structure of the shore wall, which crosses the area, is excluded, as is the above ground structure of the churchyard wall, which forms most of the W boundary. This includes the tower, hall and an area around in which evidence relating to their construction and use may



survive, as marked in red on the accompanying map.

Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a fine example of a late Norse or Medieval fortified dwelling house, with very deep deposits offering the potential for the archaeological recovery of important information relating to the evolution of fortifications and the organisation of the upper levels of society in Orkney during the period of its movement from the Scandinavian to the Scottish kingdoms.

The monument gains added importance from its documented history from the mid-16th century and from the association with Sigurd of Westness as a key figure in the early 12th century power struggle with Orkney: it was from Westness that Swein Asleifson abducted Earl Paul II in 1137.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY33SE 17.

References:

Deitrichson L, 1906, Monumenta Orcadiana, Christiania.

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Lamb R G 1980a, Iron Age promontory forts in the Northern Isles, Brit Archaeol Rep, BAR Brit Ser, Vol.79. Oxford.

Wilson D M and Hurst D G 1965, 'Medieval Britain in 1962 and 1963', Medieval Archaeol, 8, 240

Site Number 124

Site Name Earl's Palace, Birsay

Type of Site Secular: hall; palace; well

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90033

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 324815

Northing 1027759

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument is a ruined palace. It was probably begun in 1569 and was largely complete by 1574, the date on an inscription formerly set over the main door; this also recorded the builder as Robert Stewart, Earl of Orkney. The palace was being used by the Earls of Morton in the 1650s, but by the early 1700s had lost its roof and fallen into decay. Today it is badly ruined, and the E and S ranges barely survive above first-floor level.

The palace buildings were originally laid out about 3 sides of a rectangular courtyard, with a wall enclosing the N side. The ranges were two-storeyed, and at 3 of the corners (and possibly the fourth, NW, corner) stood a projecting rectangular tower, that on the NE being 3-storeyed. There were large windows only on the upper floors, while the basement was provided with small rectangular openings, immediately below which are a multiplicity of gun-ports. The main entrance, on the S, led through a pend, with a guard chamber on the right, into a central courtyard. The main hall seems to have been in the S range, above the entrance, but in a secondary phase a N range was built, containing a great hall and chamber on the first floor and a kitchen and storage cellars on the ground floor; this was served by a new turnpike stair in



the NE corner of the courtyard. The date of this addition is uncertain, though it seems more likely that the responsibility for it lies with Robert Stewart than with his son, Patrick. A date in the 1580s therefore appears likely.

The W range contained a series of 5 private chambers on the ground floor, and a long gallery on the first floor. The E range contained on the ground floor, from N to S, a chamber, a brewhouse (formerly a kitchen), followed by 3 more chambers; and on the first floor (now almost completely gone) a little hall, and 3 chambers known in 1653 as the King's, the Cabinet, and the Lord's. In the centre of the courtyard is a well.

The area to be scheduled includes the remains of the palace contained within an area of ground defined by the edge of the public road on the N, W and S, and by a wall and fence line on the E, measuring overall 70m N-S by 40m E-W, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the palatial residence of a powerful noble of royal blood, Robert Stewart, the illegitimate son of James V. The planning of the building, considered in relation to surviving 16th-18th documentation, offers insights into the layout and functioning of such a palace. The buried archaeological remains have the potential to contribute further details, besides adding to our knowledge of the material culture of the period. The historical importance of the building is enhanced by its role in the rebellion of the younger Robert Stewart (son of Patrick) in May 1614, when it was successfully held by the rebels against the sheriff's men.

References

Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 22 NW 6.

References

Anderson, P. D. and Stewart, R. (1982) Earl of Orkney, Lord of Shetland, 1533-1593, Edinburgh, 73-77, 133-136.

MacGibbon, D. and Ross, T. (1887-92) The castellated and domestic architecture of Scotland from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries, 5v, Edinburgh, Vol. 2, 337-47.

RCAHMS (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v, Edinburgh, 142-5, No. 401.

Ritchie, A. (1985) Exploring Scotland's heritage: Orkney and Shetland, Exploring Scotland's heritage series Edinburgh, 77, No. 36.

Site Number 125

Site Name Brough of Birsay, settlements, church and related remains

Type of Site Ecclesiastical: burial ground, cemetery, graveyard; church; claustral remains; enclosure, Secular:

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90034

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323922

Northing 1028496

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises the area of late Iron Age to medieval settlements and ecclesiastical remains in the care of the Secretary of State and a contiguous area to the NW and west, structures on the Little Brough, and an area containing a wall running between the latter and the area in the care of the Secretary of State. Parts of the area are already scheduled, but this proposal consolidates and extends the protected area to include all of the known remains. The monument includes remains of late Iron Age (or Pictish) settlements, Norse settlements



and a church and monastic buildings. It also includes, outwith the area in the care of the Secretary of State, works associated with the springs above and to the west of the settlements, and a small structure (of which two slabs are visible) which lies about 40m NW of the fence bounding the area in the care of the Secretary of State and between 6.5 and 9m to the NE of a line running from the centre of the site interpretation centre through the westmost corner of the area in the care of the Secretary of State. It also includes the buildings and other remains on the Little Brough and a wall running along the cliff edge from the area in the care of the Secretary of State to the Little Brough.

The area to be scheduled is irregular in shape. Its most northerly point is the strainer post of the fence at the northernmost point of the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland. The area has maximum dimensions of 540m between its NE-most point and its SW-most point by 170m WNW-ESE. The central part of the W side runs parallel to the fence marking the western side of the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland. The strip along the SE side of the Brough of Birsay is up to 26m wide along the cliff edge to the Little Brough and includes all of the Little Brough. The E and S sides of the area, plus the N side of the Little Brough, are defined by the high water mark of ordinary spring tides as shown on the Ordnance Survey map, excluding only the area of shingle stretching towards the tidal causeway. The area to be scheduled is marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

Site Number 126

Site Name Click Mill,500m ESE of Eastabist, Dounby

Type of Site Industrial: farming, food production; mill, factory

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90076

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 332541

Northing 1022853

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a horizontal mill, or "click mill" and associated structures. The Click Mill near Dounby dates from the 19th century, and was restored by the Orkney Archaeological Society before being taken into State care in 1932. It is a small rectangular building standing on the E bank of a stream. It measures overall some 6m by 3.2m and is of drystone constuction with a low-pitched roof covered with flagstones and turf. The mill machinery, including a horizontal paddle wheel, grind-stones, cowling, hopper and meal bin, is intact and in working order. Remains of the stone-lined lade survive to the NE, though water for operating the mill is now piped. A stone causeway with a lintelled bridge crosses the stream to the NW.

The area to be scheduled includes the mill, lade, bridge and the fence enclosing them, representing a kite-shaped area of ground measuring some 27.5m on the E, 12m on the SE, 16m on the SW and 25.3m on the NW, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the last horizontal or 'Norse' mill in Orkney to remain in working order. The type is technically less sophisticated than the vertical mill, which required a system of gears to transfer the rotary power from the wheel to a horizontally mounted grind-stone. In the horizontal mill the power is transmitted straight to the stone, which is located directly above the wheel.

Although horizontal mills are still found throughout the E Mediterranean area, the Orkney examples belong to a N European group with a distribution within the British Isles taking in Shetland, the Western Isles, Caithness and Ireland. The origin of the type in this area is obscure, but there seems to be no particular reason to suggest any direct connection with the



East.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 32 SW 5.

Reference:

Cruden, S. (1949) Click Mill, Dounby, Orkney, Edinburgh.

Ritchie, A. and Ritchie, J. N. G. (1978) The ancient monuments of Orkney, Edinburgh, 80, no. 32.

Site Number 127

Site Name Eynhallow Church and settlement

Type of Site Ecclesiastical: church; monastic settlement, Secular: settlement, including deserted and depopu

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90144

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 335912

Northing 1028821

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a church of medieval date and a settlement of post medieval date with possible earlier origins. It is in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland and is being re-scheduled to clarify the extent of the protected area.

The monument lies on the SW slope of the island of Eynhallow, at around 10m OD. It comprises a roofless 12th-century church measuring about 21m WNW-ESE by about 7m transversely. The church, which was reconstructed as a dwelling house in the 16th century, consists of a rectangular nave with a porch at its W end and a square-ended chancel at the E end. Very little of the original stonework of the nave survives.

The church is surrounded to the SW by a settlement of 16th-century date, consisting of at least four houses abutting each other. These houses appear to incorporate earlier structures, possibly monastic buildings associated with the church; such a monastic complex would be comparable to other Norwegian examples of the 12th century. The settlement measures about 30m N-S by about 30m E-W overall.

Although it has been suggested that Eynhallow was the abbey over which Abbot Laurence of Melrose (quondam abbas in Orcadia) had presided before his election in 1175, there is no specific reason to associate him with this particular site. The monastery, if such there was, had evidently ceased to exist by the 16th century, though the church is mentioned in 1588. The building went unrecognized until 1851, when the inhabitants were cleared from the island and the buildings were unroofed. They were subsequently studied by T.S. Muir and Sir Henry Dryden; and in 1897 they were cleared out and examined further by Professor T. Lethaby. In 1911 they were placed in the guardianship of the Office of Works.

The area proposed for scheduling comprises the remains described and an area around them within which related material may be expected to be found. It is square, measuring 100m NNE-SSW by 100m WNW-ESE, as marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

## Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because of what it contributes and, through archaeological excavation, has the potential to contribute to our understanding of medieval ecclesiastical architecture and material culture. The later phase of the complex also shed important light on post-medieval rural settlement and late 19th and early 20th century attitudes towards the care of historic ruins. The importance of the site is reflected in its status as a Property in Care.



References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 32 NE 2.

Bibliography:

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Cross, M. (1994) Bibliography of Monuments in the Care of the Secretary of State for Scotland,

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RCAHMS (1946) Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and

Shetland, vol. II. Inventory of Orkney, 230-4, no. 613. HMSO; Edinburgh.

Site Number 128

Site Name Aiker Ness, Broch of Gurness, broch and settlement

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch; settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90157

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 338194

Northing 1026836

Parish Evie And Rendall

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of an Iron Age defended settlement centred upon a broch and situated on the promontory of Aikerness.

The site was excavated from 1929 and has been laid out for visitors. It is in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland. Gurness is a complex monument of many phases, constructed over the last centuries BC and the early centuries AD. The monument takes the form of a large semi-circular platform encircled by a triple line of ditch and rampart. On the seaward, N, side these defences have been truncated by the sea.

On the platform, off-centre towards the W, stands the remaining 4m of a broch, while to the S and E are the remains of a cluster of small houses and yards. The entrance to the platform is aligned with the entrance to the broch and is from the E. The terminals of the outer ditches have been particularly carefully faced with stone, and there is a clearly ceremonial appearance about the approach.

There is evidence for several phases of construction, and in particular the ditches and ramparts appear to have become gradually obsolete as defensive elements over time, being reduced and in places partly infilled. A later group of small buildings, probably of fifth century date AD, has been moved and reconstructed to the W of the main complex.

The area to be scheduled is that contained within the boundary fence, and measures a maximum of 115m E-W by 75m N-S to include the broch, its external and internal buildings, the ramparts and ditches and an area around and between them in which evidence relating to the construction and use of the monument may be expected to survive.

It also includes the group of buildings which has been moved but excludes the visitor centre and the area beneath it as they exist at the date of scheduling. The area to be scheduled is marked in red on the accompanying map.

## Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as the finest example of a broch and external settlement so far excavated. The length of the sequence of structures and deposits and their inter-relationship afford a quite exceptional opportunity for study of the developing structure of Iron Age society as well as for the development of architectural techniques.

Although subsequently excavated, there are considerable areas as yet undisturbed which can be expected to contain important evidence to supplement and extend that already gathered, with particular potential for an understanding of the agricultural and domestic economy of the



period. Gurness is arguably the single most important excavated Iron Age site in northern Scotland.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 32 NE 5.

Reference:

Hedges, J. W. (1987) Bu, Gurness and the Brochs of Orkney, part 2: Gurness, Brit Archaeol Rep, BAR British, vol. 164 Oxford. 81.

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Site Number 129

Site Name Knowe of Yarso, chambered cairn

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90198

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 340480 Northing 1027947

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of a Neolithic chambered burial cairn which is known to have been in

use around 2900 BC. It is situated at 105m above sea-level on a hillside ledge.

Knowe of Yarso has been excavated and provided with a concrete roof to make it accessible to visitors. It is in the care of the Secretary of State.

The cairn measures 15m by 8m externally and is elongated NW-SE. It contains a long chamber 8m by 2m which survives to approximately 2m above floor level. The chamber is divided into four compartments by pairs of upright slabs set into the ground and inner wall-face, and projecting into the chamber. Entrance is by a passage on the SE. In walls of the entrance passage a vertical break in the masonry demonstrates the internal revetment characteristic of many cairns.

The outer wall-face of the cairn has been carefully laid in slanting courses, and this is visible near to the entrance. Excavation revealed evidence for the burial of the remains of at least 29 individuals. Animal bones were also found.

The area to be scheduled is rectangular and is contained within the fence surrounding the monument. It measures 27m NW-SE by 19m and is shown in red on the accompanying map. The boundary fence and concrete roof are included.

## Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as a fine field example of a Neolithic chambered tomb of the Orkney stalled cairn type, and as one of a remarkable group of such monuments on the island of Rousay. It has the potential to provide information about the evolution and construction of such burial places and their role in Neolithic society.

Although the chamber has been emptied, the old ground surface sealed below the cairn retains the potential to yield information relating to contemporary land-use, and the body of the cairn itself may contain important information about methods of construction.

Site Number 130



Site Name Midhowe Broch, broch and settlement, Rousay

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch; settlement (if not assigned to any more specific type

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90218

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337180

Northing 1030600

Parish Rousay And Egilsay

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument consists of an Iron Age defended settlement centred upon a broch and including a number of houses, all situated upon a promontory protected by a ditch and stout masonry forework.

The site has been excavated and is laid out for the public. It is in the care of the Secretary of

The earliest element appears to be a deep rock-cut ditch cutting off the promontory. Built partly into this is a solid block of masonry with an entrance passage at the SE side. Behind this forework is a broch, still standing to 4.3m high. The broch tower, which shows signs of having become unstable soon after its construction, is 18m in external diameter and encloses a circular inner area, 9.6m across, within which there is a jumble of inner partitions, tanks and hearths, all of stone.

It is likely that some of these features are later than the broch. Outside the broch stands one complete house foundation, with fragments of several others, including domestic structures located between the masonry forework and the broch. Evidence for metal-working has been recovered from the site.

The area to be scheduled is that enclosed within the fence and wall which define the area in care, and bounded on most of the seaward side by a modern sea-wall. It measures a maximum of 95m NW-SE by 43m, to include the broch, outer works and houses, as marked in red on the accompanying map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance as one of the finest field examples of its type. It displays several interesting features, notably the evidence for early instability of the broch wall and the measures taken to stabilise this. Of particular importance is the evidence preserved for the history of use of the site, apparently showing a sequence of defensive and non-defensive use from the later centuries BC through to the mid first millennium AD.

The monument also has considerable remaining archaeological potential, in undisturbed deposits, and could contribute, through excavation and analysis, to the study of the development of prehistoric defensive and domestic architecture, the development of metallurgy and, in general, the late prehistoric domestic and agricultural economy.

Site Number 131

Site Name Midhowe, chambered cairn and remains nearby

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn; enclosure (ritual or funerary rather than defen

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90219

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 337248

Northing 1030502

Parish Rousay And Egilsay



Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument comprises the remains of the chambered cairn at Midhowe and associated remains.

The chamber and the area round the cairn have been partly excavated and the monument is laid out for public access. In addition to the remains of the cairn itself, this extended scheduling includes the remains of a pair of prehistoric walls which may form part of an enclosure springing from the NE and SE corners of the chambered cairn, and also remains known to exist between the cairn and the cliff face including excavation spoil and also underlying layers of soil, some of them containing charcoal and flints. It also includes remains associated with its construction and use which will survive nearby.

The boundary of the area to be scheduled is 40m NNW of the NNW end of the building housing the chambered cairn and parts of the prehistoric walls referred to above, 40m ENE of the ENE side of the building and, to the SSE landward of the modern wall running NNW-SSE from the building, the boundary runs along but excludes the modern field wall which runs SW-NE some 40m SSE of the centre of the SSE end of the building, and seaward it runs along an extension to the SW of the line of that wall; the boundary to the WSW is the sea cliff, all as marked on the attached map.

The scheduling excludes the gravel and paving in, and the above-ground fabric of, the modern building which shelters the cairn, and the modern field wall running round the building and extending NNW and SSE of it above the modern ground surface, but includes the foundations of the modern building and parts of field walls below the ground surface.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance for its importance to understanding of Neolithic and later burial and ceremonial rituals. Its importance is recognised by its status as a monument in the care of the Scottish Ministers.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 33 SE 1.

Reference:

Davidson, J. L. and Henshall, A. S. (1989) The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents, Edinburgh, 146-8, No. 37.

Site Number 132

Site Name SANDWICK KIRK (ST. PETER'S)

Type of Site Stable (Period Unassigned)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB19904/HY21NW 42

Status Listed Building - Category A

Easting 323488

Northing 1019876

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Canmore ID: 148074

Description

1836. Plain oblong church. Harled. Slated roof. Gabled with, belfry.

Statement of Special Interest

In ecclesiastical use. On foundations of earlier church (1670/1767)

Up-graded from B to A 1 June 1998.



References **Bibliography** N.S.A. Inv. 676 Hay

Site Number 133

SANDWICK KIRK (ST. PETER'S) Site Name

Type of Site Burial Ground (Period Unassigned), Church (19th Century)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB19904/HY21NW 26

Listed Building - Category A

323454 **Easting** 1019874 **Northing Parish** Sandwick

Council

Description Canmore ID: 1679

From Canmore record:

Orkney Islands

HY21NW 26 23454 19874. (HY 2345 1986) Church {NR}

OS 6" map, Orkney, 2nd ed., (1900).

The parish church of Sandwick, erected in 1836, stands partly on the foundations of its predecessor (Name Book 1880), built in 1670 and dedicated to St Peter - probably the same dedication as given to previous chapels on the site (J Fraser 1923).

There is a grave slab dated '1623' in the churchyard.

RCAHMS 1946.

The present church is harled and shows no sign of great age. The grave slab is still in the churchyard, immediately to the south of the church. Both church and graveyard are still in regular use.

Visited by OS (AA) 20 May 1967.

HY 234 198 A watching brief was undertaken in January 2003 during the excavation of a service trench and two test pits in the graveyard of St Peter's Kirk (HY21NW 26). A test pit against the S wall of the kirk disturbed a possible stone structure, possibly relating to the church demolished to make way for the present building. No finds were recovered. The excavation did not disturb any other archaeologically significant deposits or features.

Archive to be deposited in the NMRS.

Sponsor: Orkney Builders Ltd.

R Conolly 2003

'The Orcadian' in 1906 mentions that the oldest gravestone in the "West Mainland" is located in this churchyard. It formerly stood beside a well but was now lying down, and is traditionally thought to be that of the earliest missionary.

M Howe 2006

**Architecture Notes** 

HY21NW 26.00 23454 19874

HY21NW 26.01 23460 19864 Churchyard

HY21NW 42 23488 19876 Sandwick, St Peter's Kirk, Stable

Dates from 1836 but this structure was built on the foundations of an earlier church c.1670-



1767.

EXTERNAL REFERENCE: Scottish Record Office: GD/150/1890 [transferred to Orkney]

The church is described as 'most ruinous'. The roof has almost wholly fallen in and the walls are too decayed to support a new roof. Petition from Mr William Maxwell, Minister of United churches of Dunrossness and other parishes, 1736 GD/217/1130

Building of a new Church. William G Watt has prepared a plan for a new Church. This plan is adopted and a Specification and Estimate are requested.

Minute of a Meeting of the Heritors, 1835

GD/217/1135

Expense of building the new Church (1836-3).

Summary account. It amounts to £633.9. 8 1/2, 1839

Bruce of Symbister on permenant loan to Shetland Archives Repair of the Parish Church. Account: £203.12.4 Alexander McDonald, Contractor, 1875

Publication Account (1999)

**RCAHMS Excursion Guide** 

St Peter's was erected in 1836 on the site of the medieval church. It was built by James Sinclair, mason, and William Harvey, wright. The severely plain church retains its original galleried interior and very tall three-decker pulpit. It was built to accommodate '548 sitters st the rate of eighteen inches exclusive of Ministers and Elders seats'. The main structural timber, including the posts supporting the gallery, are of 'Baltic timber' whilst the pews and pulpit are of 'good American timber'. The building cost £373 11s 7d, and the breakdown of how much each heritor paid survives in the Cairsteen Presbytery Minutes. The building is the subject of a current HLF aplication by the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust.

Information from 'RCAHMS Excursion Guide 1999: Commissioners' field excursion, Orkney, 8-10 September 1999'.

### Test Pit Survey (January 2003)

HY 234 198 A watching brief was undertaken in January 2003 during the excavation of a service trench and two test pits in the graveyard of St Peter's Kirk (HY21NW 26). A test pit against the S wall of the kirk disturbed a possible stone structure, possibly relating to the church demolished to make way for the present building. No finds were recovered. The excavation did not disturb any other archaeologically significant deposits or features.

Archive to be deposited in the NMRS.

Sponsor: Orkney Builders Ltd.

R Conolly 2003

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Conolly, R. (2003e) 'St Peter's Kirk, Bay of Skaill (Sandwick parish), watching brief', Discovery Excav Scot, vol. 4, 2003. Page(s): 102

Fraser, J. (1924) 'Antiquities of Sandwick Parish', Proc Orkney Antiq Soc, vol. 2, 1923-4. Page(s): 27

Gifford, J. (1992) Highland and Islands, The buildings of Scotland series. London. Page(s): 358 RCAHMS Shelf Number: Ref

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Edinburgh. Page(s): 250, No.674 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

RCAHMS. (1999) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Excursion guide: Commissioners' field excursion, Orkney, 8-10 September 1999, Typescript.

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The Orcadian. (1903) The Orcadian, 28 March 1903, The Orcadian. The Orcadian. (1906) The Orcadian, 12 May 1906, The Orcadian.

Site Number 134

Site Name SANDWICK KIRK (ST. PETER'S)

Type of Site Churchyard (Period Unassigned), War Memorial (20th Century)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB19904/HY21NW 26.01
Status Listed Building - Category A

Easting 323460
Northing 1019864
Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Canmore ID: 256203

From Canmore record:

External Reference (May 2011)

Sandwick war memorial is located within the burial ground at St Peter's Church at HY 23459

19844.

Information from Martin Briscoe, May 2011

Field Visit (1 October 2014)

Orkney War Memorials Survey 2014-15

Square-based polished grey granite memorial with engraved inscriptions painted black. Supported by and capped by grey granite (upper unpolished, lower polished) with classical detailing. Surmounted by octagonal-based tapered grey granite column topped by cross. Pedestal in two layers: upper layer polished grey granite; lower level concrete. Rests on

concrete base within graveyard.

Unveiled 17th April 1921 by Mr Simon Corrigall, whose three sons are commemorated on the  $\,$ 

memorial (information from Brian Budge).

Site Number 135

Site Name BIRSAY KIRK (ST. MAGNUS) BIRSAY.

Type of Site Kirk

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6171

Status Listed Building - Category B

Easting 324759

Northing 1027702



Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

Built 1664 on site of Christ Kirk, retaining its cruciform plan. Reconstructed on oblong plan 1760. Harled. Gabled ends with belfry. Flagged roof. Round-headed windows. One 13th cent.

lancet re-used. Plain interior.

Statement of Special Interest

In ecclesiastical use. Renovated 1867 and 1904.

References Bibliography N.S.A. Inv. 2

Good fellow 'Birsay Church History' (ill.)

Hay

Site Number 136

Site Name BIRSAY BRIDGE

Type of Site Bridge

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6173/HY22NW 20

Status Listed Building - Category C

**Easting** 324800 **Northing** 1027622

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

Lower part with 2 arches is 17th cent; upper is dated 1872. Rubble.

Canmore ID: 1809 From Canmore record:

HY22NW 20 24800 27622

Two-arched bridge which bears the date 1872, but whose bower part dates probably from the

17th century. RCAHMS 1946.

This bridge carries the A966 public road over the Burn of Boardhouse to the S of Birsay village. Information from RCAHMS (RJCM), 29 April 1999.

References

RCAHMS. (1946) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Twelfth report with an inventory of the ancient monuments of Orkney and Shetland, 3v.

Edinburgh. Page(s): 36, No.121 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/12

Site Number 137



Site Name OLD (SECOND) BIRSAY MANSE(RJ NORQUAY)

Type of Site Manse
Listing No./NRHE Number LB6174

Status Listed Building - Category B

Easting 324786

Northing 1027670

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

1761. Traditional. 2 1/2 storeys with 1 1/2 storey addition at E. end. Harled. Caithness slates.

Corbie-steps. Porch.

Statement of Special Interest

No longer the Manse. Rev. George Low, historian and naturalist, lived here 1774-95.

References Bibliography O.S.A.

Site Number 138

Site Name BOARDHOUSE THRESHING MILL AND STEADINGS, BOARDHOUSE

Type of Site Threshing Mill

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6175

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 325475

Northing 1027472

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

19th cent. MILL: T-plan. 2 storeys. Caithness slates. Under-shot wheel with lade. STEADINGS

attached to S. side.

Statement of Special Interest

Re-categorised as C(S) from B for Group (2006). The listing relates specifically to the group interest of the subject. It applies, as always, to interior as well as exterior, as appropriate to

building type.

Site Number 139

Site Name OLD BARONY MEAL MILL BOARDHOUSE

Type of Site Mill Boardhouse

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6176



Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 325489

Northing 1027475

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands
Description Description

Uncertain age. Small. 1 storey. Flagstone, harl-pointing. Caithness slates. Undershot wheel with

lade. Interior gutted.

Statement of Special Interest

Disused

Re-categorised as C(S) from B for Group (2006). The listing relates specifically to the group interest of the subject. It applies, as always, to interior as well as exterior, as appropriate to

building type.

Site Number 140

Site Name NEW BARONY MEAL MILL BOARDHOUSE

Type of Site Mill Barnhouse

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6177

Status Listed Building - Category B

Easting 325511

Northing 1027476

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

Dated 1873. 2 1/2 storeys. Flagstone, harl-pointing. Slated roof with vent over kiln. Overshot

wheel with lade. All machinery in good order.

Statement of Special Interest

In use

Site Number 141

Site Name Old Bea Farmhouse including former byre to north, outbuildings to southwest and walled enclo

Type of Site Farmhouse and outbuildings

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6178

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 327985

Northing 1028605

Parish Birsay And Harray
Council Orkney Islands



#### Description

#### Description

The Old Bea farmhouse buildings, located in Birsay on the northern coast road of the North Orkney Mainland, are built of traditionally constructed flagstone on a rectangular-plan. The group comprises the remains of a single storey, Orkney firehouse dating to around 1664 and extended in the 19th century with a two-storey section added to the west gable. There are two doorways to the south elevation. The two-storey addition is roofless (2018) having previously had a flagstone roof. The mid-17th century firehouse itself was raised in height by one storey, using reconstituted stone blocks, during the late 20th century.

Running parallel to the rear (north) elevation of the house is a long narrow former byre. To the south is a rectangular-plan enclosure with a low flagstone wall. To the west of the enclosure are two adjoining single-storey gabled outbuildings. The roofs are covered with corrugated or 'crinkly tin' sheeting.

#### Statement of Special Interest

Old Bea Farmhouse, dating to 1664 and extended in the 19th century, is a rare surviving example of an Orkney farmstead that retains a pre-Improvement period, mid-17th century core. There are very few farmsteads with 17th century components surviving in Orkney or more widely across Scotland and the survival of pre-Improvement agricultural buildings is rare. While the surviving elements of Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings have been altered, the buildings demonstrate the evolution of farming practice from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The grouping shows traditional building methods and plan-form, and use of locally sourced materials. The little-altered setting also adds to the interest.

#### Age and Rarity

17th century farm houses are among the earliest surviving historic buildings of the post-medieval period in the Orkney Islands. Writing in 1923, J Clouston describes Bea as one of three early houses with adjoining two-storey additions in the township of 'Abune-the-Hill', Birsay (Old Orkney Houses, p.45). Bea, Swannay and Ingsay were granted feu charter in 1664-65 (Land tax rolls for Orkney, Volume 02) which is the likely date of the earliest construction at all three sites. Swannay House was largely rebuilt during the later 19th century, possibly reusing stone from the earlier property, while Ingsay was demolished during the late 20th century.

Old Bea is first shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed in 1880) with its rectangular-plan walled enclosure to the south. The Inventory of Monuments in Orkney entry for Bea House, written in 1935, indicates that the two-storey range was added to the west gable of the earlier single-storey range during the mid-19th century. The locally-sourced clay flagstone construction of both the west and east sections of the house also indicate a continuity of traditional vernacular building methods from the 17th century through to the 19th century. The Inventory describes an additional room to the east of the Old Farmhouse. Only the footings of this part of the building are extant.

The former long byre to the rear (north) and the gabled outbuilding to the west are also shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The regular plan form arrangement of these associated outbuildings is likely to date them to the mid-19th century, around the same time as the two-storey addition to Old Bea Farmhouse, although they may incorporate much earlier material. The field boundaries in the current landscape (2018) appear to be largely consistent with those shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. A replacement farmhouse was built to the south of the walled enclosure between 1902 and 1935.

The older a building is and the fewer of its type that survive the more likely it is to be of special interest for listing. Age is a major factor but its weight differs across the building types. While the industrial and agricultural revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries (known commonly as the Agricultural Improvement period ranging roughly form 1750 to 1850) transformed the northern regions of Scotland at a slower rate than the south, little altered examples of pre-Agricultural Improvement farmsteads are exceptionally rare. Nearby Kirbister Farmhouse, Birsay (LB6179) is larger than most farmsteads of the period and is thought to date to 1723 with later additions and alterations. Operating as a museum since 2008, it is promoted as having the only traditional farmstead firehouse (with central hearth and 'fire backstone') in Northern Europe.



Old Bea is an example of an early Orkney farmstead which has been improved during the 19th century. It displays 17th to 19th century building methods and materials, and largely retains its 19th century and early 20th century agricultural setting. There are few farmsteads with 17th century components surviving in Orkney and the survival of pre-Improvement agricultural buildings is rare. Although the upstanding elements of Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings have been altered, their survival continues to illustrate traditional building methods, Improvement-era planning, and use of locally sourced materials.

Architectural or Historic Interest

#### Interior

The interior has not been seen (2018). Recent photographs show that the interior of the farmhouse is now largely a shell with the loss of internal walls and flooring. There are very few surviving interior fixtures or fittings at Old Bea House and byre, and this is expected in this building type and for its date.

There are fireplaces with raised margin surrounds in the west gable wall. The 17th century 'firehouse' section has been noted as having two inset wall cupboards, or presses, and a fireplace (Inventory, p11). The recessed press cupboards are likely to date to the construction of the house. The loss of the central hearth 'fireback' stone and relocation of the fireplace to the edge of the building is probably a 19th century alteration, likely carried out when the two-storey section was added to the west.

#### Plan form

The earliest section of Old Bea farmhouse is orientated with the principal elevation facing south. Typically, the dwelling house, usually comprising two rooms known as the firehouse (kitchen/living area) and the seller (bedroom) was built in line with the byre, barn and stable sections resembling the linear plan of the Norse longhouse of the 8th century onwards.

The survival of the plan form, with outbuildings around a central rectangular enclosure, is characteristic of small farms during the early improvement era of agricultural development in Orkney. The long narrow plan of the former byre to the north is typical as the expense of suitable timbers for the roof restricted the depth which could be spanned. As such, the site plan form is an important part of the interest.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The local building methods employed at the Old Bea Farmhouse and its outbuildings meant that they could be readily altered to suit changes in farming practice, the availability of materials and the needs of the tenants. This is reflected in the series of alterations which have been carried out over the centuries.

The overall appearance of Old Bea Farmhouse and its principal ancillary structures is that of a 17th or 18th century farm grouping that has been improved. The scale of later alterations in in keeping with the earlier buildings and the rubble enclosure is also of interest for its survival. The use of traditional materials and building techniques adds to the interest of the Old Bea Farmhouse group.

#### Setting

The setting of the Old Bea Farmhouse has survived largely in its 19th and early 20th century form which contributes to the authenticity and historic character of farm grouping. The immediate setting of the farmhouse and enclosure includes an early twentieth century farmhouse (not listed) which is in keeping with the agricultural character of the earlier farm buildings.

Old Bea farmhouse is located in the former dispersed township known as 'Abune-the-Hill' (above the hill) in Birsay towards the northern tip of Orkney Mainland. The area is hilly, but not



mountainous, with Old Bea occupying a natural dip in the landscape, making it prominently visible in long views, particularly from the A996 north road.

The location and setting of farms on Orkney tell us about changing settlement patterns and historical agricultural land-use. These buildings are a historical part of the agricultural built environment of the north Orkney Mainland.

#### Regional variations

The design and construction of old Orkney farmhouses was a distinctly localised practice. The best surviving examples of local vernacular buildings will normally be listed because, even in altered form, they can continue to illustrate distinctive local and regional building traditions.

The flag claystone in the Birsay area is noted locally as a good building material as there is no sandstone in the area. Built from undressed flagstone from the surrounding area, the Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings illustrate distinctive vernacular building methods and materials used in Orkney from the 17th to the 19th century.

The addition of a two-storey range to the west gable of the single-storey Old Bea house was a traditional method of extending single-storey farmhouses in Orkney during the mid-19th century (Clouston, p.39), reflecting a distinctive regional building tradition.

#### Close Historical Associations

There are no known associations with a person or event of national importance at present (2018).

Statutory address changed and listed building record revised in 2018. Previously listed as 'Old Bea Farmhouse'.

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Other Information

Orkney Islands Council (2013) Development & Marine Planning, Orkney Local List - Birsay Pilot Survey, site number 131.

Site Number 142

Site Name Old Bea Farmhouse including former byre to north, outbuildings to southwest and walled enclo

Type of Site Farmhouse and outbuildings

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6178

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 327988

Northing 1028610

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The Old Bea farmhouse buildings, located in Birsay on the northern coast road of the North Orkney Mainland, are built of traditionally constructed flagstone on a rectangular-plan. The group comprises the remains of a single storey, Orkney firehouse dating to around 1664 and extended in the 19th century with a two-storey section added to the west gable. There are two doorways to the south elevation. The two-storey addition is roofless (2018) having previously had a flagstone roof. The mid-17th century firehouse itself was raised in height by one storey, using reconstituted stone blocks, during the late 20th century.

Running parallel to the rear (north) elevation of the house is a long narrow former byre. To the south is a rectangular-plan enclosure with a low flagstone wall. To the west of the enclosure are two adjoining single-storey gabled outbuildings. The roofs are covered with corrugated or 'crinkly tin' sheeting.

### Statement of Special Interest

Old Bea Farmhouse, dating to 1664 and extended in the 19th century, is a rare surviving example of an Orkney farmstead that retains a pre-Improvement period, mid-17th century core. There are very few farmsteads with 17th century components surviving in Orkney or more widely across Scotland and the survival of pre-Improvement agricultural buildings is rare. While the surviving elements of Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings have been altered, the buildings demonstrate the evolution of farming practice from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The grouping shows traditional building methods and plan-form, and use of locally sourced materials. The little-altered setting also adds to the interest.

### Age and Rarity

17th century farm houses are among the earliest surviving historic buildings of the post-medieval period in the Orkney Islands. Writing in 1923, J Clouston describes Bea as one of three early houses with adjoining two-storey additions in the township of 'Abune-the-Hill', Birsay (Old Orkney Houses, p.45). Bea, Swannay and Ingsay were granted feu charter in 1664-65 (Land tax rolls for Orkney, Volume 02) which is the likely date of the earliest construction at all three sites. Swannay House was largely rebuilt during the later 19th century, possibly reusing stone from the earlier property, while Ingsay was demolished during the late 20th century.

Old Bea is first shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed in 1880) with its rectangular-plan walled enclosure to the south. The Inventory of Monuments in Orkney entry



for Bea House, written in 1935, indicates that the two-storey range was added to the west gable of the earlier single-storey range during the mid-19th century. The locally-sourced clay flagstone construction of both the west and east sections of the house also indicate a continuity of traditional vernacular building methods from the 17th century through to the 19th century. The Inventory describes an additional room to the east of the Old Farmhouse. Only the footings of this part of the building are extant.

The former long byre to the rear (north) and the gabled outbuilding to the west are also shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The regular plan form arrangement of these associated outbuildings is likely to date them to the mid-19th century, around the same time as the two-storey addition to Old Bea Farmhouse, although they may incorporate much earlier material. The field boundaries in the current landscape (2018) appear to be largely consistent with those shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. A replacement farmhouse was built to the south of the walled enclosure between 1902 and 1935.

The older a building is and the fewer of its type that survive the more likely it is to be of special interest for listing. Age is a major factor but its weight differs across the building types. While the industrial and agricultural revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries (known commonly as the Agricultural Improvement period ranging roughly form 1750 to 1850) transformed the northern regions of Scotland at a slower rate than the south, little altered examples of pre-Agricultural Improvement farmsteads are exceptionally rare. Nearby Kirbister Farmhouse, Birsay (LB6179) is larger than most farmsteads of the period and is thought to date to 1723 with later additions and alterations. Operating as a museum since 2008, it is promoted as having the only traditional farmstead firehouse (with central hearth and 'fire backstone') in Northern Europe.

Old Bea is an example of an early Orkney farmstead which has been improved during the 19th century. It displays 17th to 19th century building methods and materials, and largely retains its 19th century and early 20th century agricultural setting. There are few farmsteads with 17th century components surviving in Orkney and the survival of pre-Improvement agricultural buildings is rare. Although the upstanding elements of Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings have been altered, their survival continues to illustrate traditional building methods, Improvement-era planning, and use of locally sourced materials.

Architectural or Historic Interest

### Interior

The interior has not been seen (2018). Recent photographs show that the interior of the farmhouse is now largely a shell with the loss of internal walls and flooring. There are very few surviving interior fixtures or fittings at Old Bea House and byre, and this is expected in this building type and for its date.

There are fireplaces with raised margin surrounds in the west gable wall. The 17th century 'firehouse' section has been noted as having two inset wall cupboards, or presses, and a fireplace (Inventory, p11). The recessed press cupboards are likely to date to the construction of the house. The loss of the central hearth 'fireback' stone and relocation of the fireplace to the edge of the building is probably a 19th century alteration, likely carried out when the two-storey section was added to the west.

### Plan form

The earliest section of Old Bea farmhouse is orientated with the principal elevation facing south. Typically, the dwelling house, usually comprising two rooms known as the firehouse (kitchen/living area) and the seller (bedroom) was built in line with the byre, barn and stable sections resembling the linear plan of the Norse longhouse of the 8th century onwards.

The survival of the plan form, with outbuildings around a central rectangular enclosure, is characteristic of small farms during the early improvement era of agricultural development in Orkney. The long narrow plan of the former byre to the north is typical as the expense of suitable timbers for the roof restricted the depth which could be spanned. As such, the site



plan form is an important part of the interest.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The local building methods employed at the Old Bea Farmhouse and its outbuildings meant that they could be readily altered to suit changes in farming practice, the availability of materials and the needs of the tenants. This is reflected in the series of alterations which have been carried out over the centuries.

The overall appearance of Old Bea Farmhouse and its principal ancillary structures is that of a 17th or 18th century farm grouping that has been improved. The scale of later alterations in in keeping with the earlier buildings and the rubble enclosure is also of interest for its survival. The use of traditional materials and building techniques adds to the interest of the Old Bea Farmhouse group.

#### Setting

The setting of the Old Bea Farmhouse has survived largely in its 19th and early 20th century form which contributes to the authenticity and historic character of farm grouping. The immediate setting of the farmhouse and enclosure includes an early twentieth century farmhouse (not listed) which is in keeping with the agricultural character of the earlier farm buildings.

Old Bea farmhouse is located in the former dispersed township known as 'Abune-the-Hill' (above the hill) in Birsay towards the northern tip of Orkney Mainland. The area is hilly, but not mountainous, with Old Bea occupying a natural dip in the landscape, making it prominently visible in long views, particularly from the A996 north road.

The location and setting of farms on Orkney tell us about changing settlement patterns and historical agricultural land-use. These buildings are a historical part of the agricultural built environment of the north Orkney Mainland.

### Regional variations

The design and construction of old Orkney farmhouses was a distinctly localised practice. The best surviving examples of local vernacular buildings will normally be listed because, even in altered form, they can continue to illustrate distinctive local and regional building traditions.

The flag claystone in the Birsay area is noted locally as a good building material as there is no sandstone in the area. Built from undressed flagstone from the surrounding area, the Old Bea Farmhouse and outbuildings illustrate distinctive vernacular building methods and materials used in Orkney from the 17th to the 19th century.

The addition of a two-storey range to the west gable of the single-storey Old Bea house was a traditional method of extending single-storey farmhouses in Orkney during the mid-19th century (Clouston, p.39), reflecting a distinctive regional building tradition.

#### Close Historical Associations

There are no known associations with a person or event of national importance at present (2018).

Statutory address changed and listed building record revised in 2018. Previously listed as 'Old Bea Farmhouse'.

References Bibliography

Canmore: http://canmore.org.uk/ CANMORE ID 1781

Maps



Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1880, published 1881) Orkney LXXXVIII.8 (Birsay). 25 inches to the mile. 1st Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (revised 1900, published 1902) Orkney LXXXVIII.8 (Birsay and Harray). 25 inches to the mile. 2nd Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

#### **Printed Sources**

Storer Clouston, J. (1923) Proceedings of the Orkney Antiquarian Society, Old Orkney Houses, pp. 39-47.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland (1946) Inventory of Monuments in Orkney. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationary Office, p.11.

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#### **Online Sources**

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1831/land-tax-rolls-orkney-volume-02/26

The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland (1868)

http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/OKI/Birsay [accessed 20/06/2018].

Orkney Ordnance Survey Name Books (1879-1880) Orkney, Volume 1, Bea:

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#### Other Information

Orkney Islands Council (2013) Development & Marine Planning, Orkney Local List - Birsay Pilot Survey, site number 131.

Site Number 143

Site Name Old Bea Farmhouse including former byre to north, outbuildings to southwest and walled enclo

Type of Site Farmhouse and outbuildings

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6178

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 327971

Northing 1028598

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The Old Bea farmhouse buildings, located in Birsay on the northern coast road of the North Orkney Mainland, are built of traditionally constructed flagstone on a rectangular-plan. The group comprises the remains of a single storey, Orkney firehouse dating to around 1664 and extended in the 19th century with a two-storey section added to the west gable. There are two doorways to the south elevation. The two-storey addition is roofless (2018) having previously had a flagstone roof. The mid-17th century firehouse itself was raised in height by one storey, using reconstituted stone blocks, during the late 20th century.

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Architectural or Historic Interest



#### Interior

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#### Close Historical Associations

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Statutory address changed and listed building record revised in 2018. Previously listed as 'Old Bea Farmhouse'.

#### References

Bibliography

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#### Maps

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### Other Information

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Site Number 144

Site Name Old Bea Farmhouse including former byre to north, outbuildings to southwest and walled enclo

Type of Site Farmhouse and outbuildings

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6178

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 327992

Northing 1028598

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

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### References Bibliography

Canmore: http://canmore.org.uk/ CANMORE ID 1781

#### Maps

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Other Information

Orkney Islands Council (2013) Development & Marine Planning, Orkney Local List - Birsay Pilot Survey, site number 131.

Site Number 145

Site Name KIRBISTER FARMHOUSE

Type of Site Farmhouse
Listing No./NRHE Number LB6179

Status Listed Building - Category B

Easting 328281

Northing 1025439

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

Farmhouse of old type consisting of a Fire-room with Sellar at E. end and addition (dated 1723) at W. 1 storey. Flagstone. Flagged roof with vent. Lean-to pantry on N. side. Interior retains several original features including fire-back, neuks for bed and peat, and flagged floor. Marriage lintel (upside down) with date and initials 'I.S./K.N.' at addition Long BYRE freestanding to S. Roofless STABLE AND BARN at E. with piggery, smiddy and kiln.

Statement of Special Interest

Very well known example of traditional Orkney house. Belonged to Spences from 18th cent.

Occupied until recently.

References Bibliography P.O.A.S. I.

Clouston 'Orkney Parishes.

A. Roussell, 'Norse Building Customs', pp.83-6 (plan)

Site Number 146



Site Name Eynhallow Rural Conservation Area

Type of Site Conservation Area

**Listing No./NRHE Number** 

Status Conservation Area

Easting 336171

Northing 1029186

Parish
Council
Description

Site Number 147

Site Name Ring of Brogar, stone circle, henge and nearby remains

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: barrow; cairn (type uncertain); henge; stone circle or ring; stone

Listing No./NRHE Number Ring of Brogar, stone circle, henge and nearby remains

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 329481
Northing 1013296
Parish Stenness

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises all remains within the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland at and around Ring of Brogar including a stone circle and a ditched enclosure (a henge) known together as the Ring of Brogar, four large burial mounds including Fresh Knowe, Salt Knowe and Plumcake Mound, up to a dozen small burial mounds and a stone setting including the Comet Stone on a platform, together with all artificial remains within the area

around and between the visible monuments.

The area to be scheduled is the area owned by the Secretary of State for Scotland, measuring 345.5m or thereabouts on its SW side, 366.5m or thereabouts on its NW side and 425m or thereabouts on its SE side and bounded on the NE by the edge of the Loch of Harray and elsewhere by a fence as marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

Site Number 148

Site Name Maes Howe, chambered cairn

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90209

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 331829

Northing 1012772

Parish Stenness



Council Orkney Islands

**Description** Description

The monument is a chambered cairn on a large platform, and a large surrounding flatbottomed ditch, an outer turf bank and associated and earlier remains, all known collectively as Maes Howe.

The monument includes the chambered tomb and the large platform and ditch, the turf bank and the remains of other features including stone-sockets. It also includes other remains associated with this and other phases of use of the area for ritual and ceremonial purposes. The area to be scheduled is approximately elliptical on plan. It measures 130m NW-SE or thereabouts, and 120m NE-SW or thereabouts. It comprises the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland and a band of ground 10m across outside the outermost edges of the area in state care. It excludes all existing modern fences.

#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance, indeed international importance, as part of the core of a mainly third and second millennium BC (although including elements which may be of late 4th millennium BC date) ritual landscape. The architecturally exceptionally fine chambered tomb with its platform and ditch is important both as a field monument and because excavation has shown that it contains important information about the religious, ceremonial and funerary practices of late fourth, third and second millennium societies.

The monument is also important because other monuments within a broader area extending to the western horizons seem to have been sited in relationship to it. The monument is of additional importance because the chamber contains (together with other carvings) the finest collection of stone-carved Norse runes in the world.

References Bibliography

RCAHMS records the monument as HY 31 SW 1.

References:

Davidson, J L and Henshall, A S, 1989, The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents, Edinburgh, 142-6, no. 36.

Renfrew, A C, 1978, Investigations in Orkney, Society of Antiquaries of London, Research Report No. 38, London, 23-6, 31-8.

Site Number 149

Site Name Stenness, stone circle and henge

Type of Site Prehistoric ritual and funerary: henge; stone circle or ring

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90285

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 330675

Northing 1012501

Parish Stenness

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

The monument comprises a stone circle, henge and all other remains in the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland at the Stones of Stenness. Different names (Ring of

Stenness, Stones of Stenness) are used on OS maps of different scales.

The area to be scheduled is the area in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland containing the henge and stone circle and other remains, measuring 88.4m or thereabouts along its NW side, 85.3m or thereabouts along its NE side and 102.1m or thereabouts along its SE side and bounded on all sides by a fence, as marked in red on the accompanying map

extract. The scheduling excludes the fence.



#### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance, indeed international importance, as part of the core of a mainly third and second millennium BC (although including elements which may be of late 4th millennium BC date) ritual landscape. The stone circle and henge, in an area within which other remains may be expected to survive, give the monument importance both as a field monument and because the area contains important information about religious, ceremonial and funerary practices of late fourth and third millennium societies. The monument is also important because other monuments within a broader area extending to the horizons may have been sited in relationship to it.

References Bibliography

Ritchie, J. N. G. (1976)'The Stones of Stenness, Orkney' Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. 107 (1975-6), 1'60

Site Number 150

Site Name Skara Brae, settlement, mounds and other remains

Type of Site Prehistoric domestic and defensive: field or field system; settlement (if not assigned to any mor

Listing No./NRHE Number SM90276

Status Scheduled Monument

Easting 323223

Northing 1018688

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

This scheduling amalgamates and extends two existing schedulings. Its area covers the

Neolithic village at Skara Brae, nearby remains of structures and activity areas of similar date, a large mound containing a succession of prehistoric and early medieval structures, and an area in which related remains are likely to survivve, including ancient soils and field systems. The remains covered by the scheduling include: the well-preserved village at Skara Brae with remains including walls, stone furniture, archaeological layers and a slaughtering floor partially revealed by excavation to its west; the large mound partially truncated by coastal erosion to reveal walls and burials some 150m to its west; together with prehistoric and medieval or later soils and other traces of ancient activities under the modern topsoil and sand to the west, south and east of Skara Brae. It includes a sand-covered tumulus SW of Voydale. It also includes a previously unscheduled area between dry land and the Mean Low Water Springs within which remains of ancient land survive, and a previously unscheduled area, including a mound on the NW raised bank of the stream north of Voydale, in which ancient soils and other remains will survive. It excludes the above-ground parts of all modern builtings, field walls and fences above ground level, and the upper levels of all modern built paths.

The area to be scheduled extends from west to east from the SW corner of Skaill Bay to the fence running NW by SE to the north of the stream or lade north of Voydale, and from north to south from the Mean Low Water Springs to the farm road west of Skaill, measuring a maximum of 582m from its easternmost to its westernmost point, and 370m from its northernmost to its southernmost point, as outlined in red on the attached map.

### Statement of National Importance

The monument is of national importance because it includes a remarkably well preserved neolithic settlement and associated remains, in addition to the remains of later periods. These remains, part of which are designated a World Heritage Site, have the potential to provide high-quality evidence for settlement, burial and environment from the early prehistoric to Viking



and later periods.

References Bibliography

Skara Brae and related sites in its immediate vicinity.

RCAHMS records: HY21NW 12.00, HY21NW 12.01, HY21NW 12.02, HY21NW 12.03, HY21NW 13, HY21NW 16, HY21NW 30.02, HY21NW 30.00, HY21NW 30.02, HY21NW 30.01, HY21NW 39, HY21NW 41.

References:

Childe V G and Paterson J W 1929, 'Provisional report on the excavations at Skara Brae, and on finds from the 1927 and 1928 campaigns', PROC SOC ANTIQ SCOT, Vol. 63, 225-80.

Childe V G 1930a, 'Operations at Skara Brae during 1929' PROC SOC ANTIQ Childe V G, 1950a, ANCIENT DWELLINGS AT SKARA BRAE, ORKNEY, Edinburgh.

Clarke D and Maguire P 1996, SKARA BRAE, Historic Scotland guidebook.

RCAHMS 1946, TWELFTH REPORT WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND, 3v Edinburgh: HMSO, 254-9, No. 683.

Clarke D V 1976a, THE NEOLITHIC VILLAGE AT SKARA BRAE, ORKNEY: 1972-3 EXCAVATIONS: AN INTERIM REPORT, Edinburgh.

Site Number 151

Site Name Heart of neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site

Type of Site Worl Heritage Site

**Listing No./NRHE Number** 

Status World Heritage Site

Easting 329595

Northing 1013285

Parish Sandwick

Council Orkney Islands

Description Some 5,000 years ago, the prehistoric people of the Orkney Islands began building

extraordinary monuments out of stone. Each of the four Heart of Neolithic Orkney sites is a masterpiece of Neolithic design and construction in itself. But together they represent one of

the richest surviving Neolithic landscapes in Western Europe.

The series of important domestic and ritual monuments gives us incredible insights into the

society, skills and spiritual beliefs of the people who built the monuments.

Skara Brae is a domestic settlement whose stone walls, passageways and stone furnishings –  $\,$ 

including beds and 'dressers' – survive to the present day.

Maeshowe, a chambered tomb, is an extraordinary example of Neolithic architectural genius. It was designed so that the light of the setting sun at the winter solstice focuses on the narrow passageway, illuminating the chamber inside.

The Stones of Stenness circle and henge is a very early example of this type of monument. The surviving stones are enormous, standing up to 6m tall.

The Ring of Brodgar is a great stone circle 130m across. Surrounded by a rock cut ditch, it is set in a spectacular natural amphitheatre of lochs and hills.

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney lies in a wider archaeological landscape rich with remains from

Neolithic times and many later periods of Orcadian history.

Site Number 152



**Site Name** THE KITCHENER MEMORIAL

Type of Site

Listing No./NRHE Number LB6182

**Status** Listed Building - Category C

322659 **Easting Northing** 1026170

**Parish** Birsay And Harray Council **Orkney Islands** Description Description

1926. Square tower with battered walls of coursed rubble. Crenellated parapet. Inscription.

Statement of Special Interest

Erected by people of Orkney to commemorate Earl Kitchener who perished in HMS Hampshire

off Marwick Head, 5 June 1916.

Site Number

**Site Name** TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Type of Site Air Raid Shelters (Second World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51784

Listed Building - Category C **Status** 

**Easting** 325950 **Northing** 1022781

**Parish** Birsay And Harray Council **Orkney Islands Description** Description

> 1941-43. Group of 5 perimeter air-raid shelters set in open landscape to SW of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) airfield at Twatt, (former HMS Tern). Rectangular-plan; earthwork covering. Pre-cast sectional concrete construction with tapering sides and round-arched heads with brick retaining wall passages to entrance/exits. 3 shelters to S have entrance/exits to both

ends.

Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

A significant grouping of five heavy-duty pre-cast concrete WWII air-raid shelters at the former Twatt Airfield and a good survival within their building type. Pragmatically located near to the officers and ratings quarters, this group of 50-man concrete shelters evidence the perceived threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The pre-cast unit construction is similar in form to the traditional Stanton-type shelters but the tapering arch shape in cross-section is unusual.

The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of other associated WWII structures at Twatt, the combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) being of particular note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listing), the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick

bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former

cinema. None of the aircraft hangers remain.



The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers. It remained in service until 1949. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

#### References

#### Bibliography

Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp323, 326-7. RCAHMS, http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/details/1065400 - accessed 2011. Further information courtesy of Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).

Site Number 154

Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Type of Site Air Raid Shelters (Second World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51784

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 325887

Northing 1022612

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1941-43. Group of 5 perimeter air-raid shelters set in open landscape to SW of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) airfield at Twatt, (former HMS Tern). Rectangular-plan; earthwork covering. Pre-cast sectional concrete construction with tapering sides and round-arched heads with brick retaining wall passages to entrance/exits. 3 shelters to S have entrance/exits to both ends.

### Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

A significant grouping of five heavy-duty pre-cast concrete WWII air-raid shelters at the former Twatt Airfield and a good survival within their building type. Pragmatically located near to the officers and ratings quarters, this group of 50-man concrete shelters evidence the perceived threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The pre-cast unit construction is similar in form to the traditional Stanton-type shelters but the tapering arch shape in cross-section is unusual.

The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of other associated WWII structures at Twatt, the combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) being of particular note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listing),



the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. None of the aircraft hangers remain.

The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers. It remained in service until 1949. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

#### References

Bibliography

Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp323, 326-7. RCAHMS, http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/details/1065400 - accessed 2011. Further information courtesy of Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).

Site Number 155

Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Type of Site Air Raid Shelters (Second World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51784

Status Listed Building - Category C

**Easting** 325856 **Northing** 1022714

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1941-43. Group of 5 perimeter air-raid shelters set in open landscape to SW of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) airfield at Twatt, (former HMS Tern). Rectangular-plan; earthwork covering. Pre-cast sectional concrete construction with tapering sides and round-arched heads with brick retaining wall passages to entrance/exits. 3 shelters to S have entrance/exits to both ends

### Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

A significant grouping of five heavy-duty pre-cast concrete WWII air-raid shelters at the former Twatt Airfield and a good survival within their building type. Pragmatically located near to the officers and ratings quarters, this group of 50-man concrete shelters evidence the perceived threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The pre-cast unit construction is similar in form to the traditional Stanton-type shelters but the tapering arch shape in cross-section is unusual.

The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of other associated WWII structures at Twatt, the combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) being of



particular note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listing), the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. None of the aircraft hangers remain.

The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers. It remained in service until 1949. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

#### References

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Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp323, 326-7. RCAHMS, http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/details/1065400 - accessed 2011. Further information courtesy of Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).

Site Number 156

Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Type of Site Air Raid Shelters (Second World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51784

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 325825 Northing 1022630

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1941-43. Group of 5 perimeter air-raid shelters set in open landscape to SW of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) airfield at Twatt, (former HMS Tern). Rectangular-plan; earthwork covering. Pre-cast sectional concrete construction with tapering sides and round-arched heads with brick retaining wall passages to entrance/exits. 3 shelters to S have entrance/exits to both ends.

Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

A significant grouping of five heavy-duty pre-cast concrete WWII air-raid shelters at the former Twatt Airfield and a good survival within their building type. Pragmatically located near to the officers and ratings quarters, this group of 50-man concrete shelters evidence the perceived threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The pre-cast unit construction is similar in form to the traditional Stanton-type shelters but the tapering arch



shape in cross-section is unusual.

The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of other associated WWII structures at Twatt, the combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) being of particular note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listing), the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. None of the aircraft hangers remain.

The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers. It remained in service until 1949. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

#### References

Bibliography

Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp323, 326-7. RCAHMS, http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/details/1065400 - accessed 2011. Further information courtesy of Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).

Site Number 157

Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), AIR-RAID SHELTERS

Type of Site Air Raid Shelters (Second World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51784

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 325985

Northing 1022586

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1941-43. Group of 5 perimeter air-raid shelters set in open landscape to SW of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) airfield at Twatt, (former HMS Tern). Rectangular-plan; earthwork covering. Pre-cast sectional concrete construction with tapering sides and round-arched heads with brick retaining wall passages to entrance/exits. 3 shelters to S have entrance/exits to both

Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

A significant grouping of five heavy-duty pre-cast concrete WWII air-raid shelters at the former Twatt Airfield and a good survival within their building type. Pragmatically located near to the



officers and ratings quarters, this group of 50-man concrete shelters evidence the perceived threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The pre-cast unit construction is similar in form to the traditional Stanton-type shelters but the tapering arch shape in cross-section is unusual.

The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of other associated WWII structures at Twatt, the combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) being of particular note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listing), the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. None of the aircraft hangers remain.

The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers. It remained in service until 1949. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

References Bibliography

Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp323, 326-7. RCAHMS, http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/details/1065400 - accessed 2011. Further information courtesy of Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).

Site Number 158

Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), COMBINED CONTROL TOWER AND OPERATIONS BLOCK

Type of Site Airfield Control Tower (Seccond World War)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51783

Status Listed Building - Category B

Easting 326223

Northing 1022940

Parish Birsay And Harra

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1940-41. Combined Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) control tower and operations block, set in open landscape now comprising principal building of Twatt Airfield (former HMS Tern). Rendered brick. 3-storey, rectangular-plan control room and watch office adjoining single-

storey operations block to form T-plan.

OPERATIONS BLOCK: single storey, flat-roofed operations block at ground surrounded by outer brick blast-wall and earthwork embankments; blast wall entrance to S corner angle. Main entrance to operations block to centre W elevation; 2 small windows flanking. 2 doorways and 3 windows to S elevation. Stair to SE corner angle rising to roof, parapeted to hold stone



chippings; concrete drainage gutter bridging gap between outer blast wall; tall, narrow brick chimney with clay can. Cast-iron rainwater goods.

CONTROL ROOM/WATCH OFFICE: predominantly narrow horizontal openings to control room. External metal stair rising from roof of operations block to cantilevered, shuttered concrete walkway around N, S and E elevations of control tower watch office; large openings flanked by narrower lights to N, S and E elevations of watch office.

INTERIOR (seen 2010): operations block; arrangement of 11 rooms and ground floor of control tower surrounding central operations room. Brick shelves in L-plan arrangement to central room. Square hatch opening rising though floors of control tower to watch room above.

#### Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

The Royal Naval Air Service combined control tower and operations building at Twatt Airfield is an important survival of a Second World War airfield building in Orkney.

The building is an early example of this integrated design, similar to early watch offices with attached operations rooms found on RAF satellite bomber airfields in the English midlands. The blast walls and earthwork embankments surrounding the operations block to roof level indicate the perceived level of threat and the importance of maintaining airfield operations in Orkney. The internal plan also differs from standardised RNAS control tower design with a suite of rooms surrounding a central operation room at the core providing additional protection from potential bomb and gas attack. There is an internal hatch rising through the floors to the watch room. Most of the outer rooms have a window for light and ventilation. The structure occupies a prominent position on open ground within the surrounding low-lying landscape. The strategic contribution of Orkney during World War II was nationally significant. Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney helping to counter U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The airfield at Twatt was begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers and remained in service until 1949. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listings).

Royal Naval Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout. Most satellite airfields had smaller watch offices although throughout the war many were adapted as needs changed. The RNAS airfield layout tended to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF)

The interest of the control tower is increased by the survival of various associated WWII structures. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the greatest level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae and Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 5 concrete air-raid shelters and 2 octagonal concrete pill boxes (see separate listings). None of the aircraft hangers remain. Other remains include the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941, extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three abandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter.

#### References

#### Bibliography

Civil Engineer in Chief's Dept, Plan of R.N.A.S - Twatt S2559/44 (1944). D J Smith, Action Stations 7: Military Airfields Of Scotland, The North East And Northern Ireland (1983). G Lamb, Sky over Scapa 1939-1945 (1991) pp23. Ed B Lowry, 20th Century Defences In Britain (1996) p115. W Hewison, This Great Harbour: Scapa Flow, Aspects of Orkney Series (1985) pp 323, 326-7. Further information courtesy of Paul Francis, Geoffrey Stell and Birsay Heritage Trust (2011).



Site Name TWATT AIRFIELD (FORMER HMS TERN), PILLBOXES

Type of Site Pillboxes (Seond World war)

Listing No./NRHE Number LB51782

Status Listed Building - Category C

Easting 326434

Northing 1022458

Parish Birsay And Harray

Council Orkney Islands

Description Description

1941-43. Pair of partially dug-in, hexagonal, WWII pillboxes with grass roof coverings located at S and E perimeters of former Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) set in open landscape comprising Twatt Airfield (former HMS Tern). Brick and shuttered concrete construction with overhanging flat roof; small square loophole to each elevation.

#### Statement of Special Interest

Part of a B Group at Twatt Airfield including: Combined Control Tower and Operations Block; 5 Air-Raid Shelters; 2 Pillboxes (see separate listings).

This pair of concrete WWII pill-boxes at the former Twatt Airfield are a good contextual survival within their building type. Situated at the southern and eastern perimeters of the airfield, the roofs of the hexagonal pillboxes are grass-covered as a camouflage measure. Corrugated sheeting has been used to shutter the concrete giving the pillboxes a distinctive appearance. The pillboxes are positioned to provide interlocking fields of fire over the anticipated southerly direction of attack. The loopholes are angled to limit access of incoming fire.

Twatt Airfield was an important Second World War Naval airfield in Orkney. Begun in 1940 and commissioned as HMS Tern in 1941 as a satellite of Hatston airfield for the Royal Marine engineers, it remained in service until 1949. The interest of the shelters is increased by the survival of various other associated WWII structures at Twatt, largely in shell form. The combined control tower and operations block (see separate listing) is the principal building of note. Of the four main military airfields in Orkney, Twatt has the most complete level of surviving WWII infrastructure with little now remaining at Hatston, Skeabrae or Grimstter (Kirkwall). The surviving elements include 5 air-raid shelters (see separate listing), the brick shells of the vehicle and parachute stores, ammunition stores, sick bay/decontamination unit and generator house and the projection room section of the former cinema. None of the aircraft hangars remain.

Air defences in Orkney were a significant contributor to national security with strikes from airfields in Orkney countering U-boat, surface vessel and air threats over the North Sea and at Scapa Flow. The hub of the Royal Navy's sea base operations were located at Lyness at the entrance to Scapa Flow including the Wee Fea Naval Communications and Operational Centre (see separate listing).

The airfield covered 440 acres of land in 1941 and was extended to a total of 564 acres in 1943. There are three adandoned 19th century farmsteads within the perimeter. Royal Navy Air Stations were separate from the Air Ministry and therefore developed their own distinct airfield architecture and layout, tending to have 4 intersecting runways rather than the 'A' plan layout favoured by the Air Ministry (RAF).

### References

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